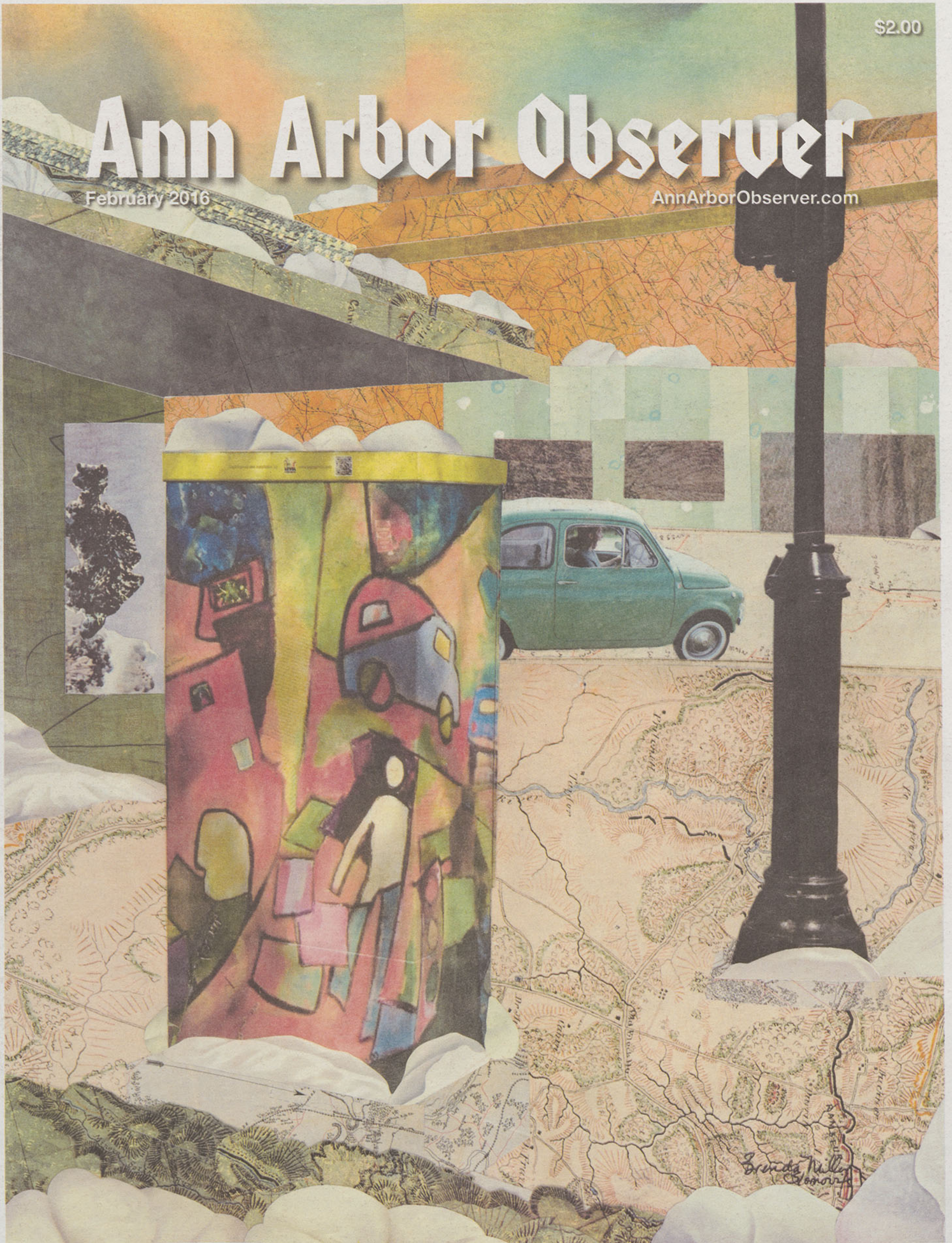


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February 2016

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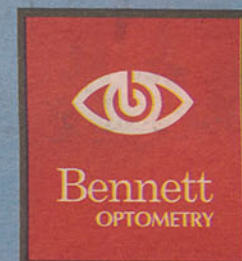


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February 2016

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Collage by Brenda Miller Slomovits.



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**FBI brushoff:** Local attorney Irv Mermelstein has long argued that the city's Footing Drain Disconnection Program violates property rights—so far, with no success. In January, judge Tim Connors dismissed his lawsuit on behalf of two homeowners whose drains were rerouted from the city's sanitary sewers to basement sump pumps.

A second suit on behalf of another homeowner is continuing. If it wins class action status and prevails, the *Ann Arbor News* calculated, the city could collectively owe nearly 2,000 affected residents more than \$6 million for every year their drains were disconnected. But those are big ifs. The second suit is also before Connors—and the January decision wasn't Mermelstein's first setback.

According to an FBI case report obtained by the Observer, he previously tried to persuade the feds that the city and U-M were rife with corruption. In October 2014, he faxed the agency material including "e-mail messages, news articles, City of Ann Arbor Legislative Resolutions and charts purporting to establish corruption involving the City of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan and affiliated contractors." The attorney claimed that engineers working on the disconnection program "lied," that the city filed "fraudulent applications" for federal funds with "cooked" or "fabricated" numbers, that "a conspiracy existed" among top city and U-M officials, and "that criminal laws are being broken by a powerful and aggressive local government."

The FBI found the charges "without merit" and "completely baseless" and concluded that "none of the allegations and/or arguments advanced provide a reasonable factual basis justifying a criminal investigation into this matter." The attorney did not take that rejection well. "Mr. Mermelstein became very agitated and was incredulous that the information he provided

was insufficient," the report says—and "threatened to call Washington D.C. to report the FBI refused to open a public corruption investigation."

Contacted by the Observer, Mermelstein declined to comment—as did city attorney Stephen Postema: "This office deals in the realm of facts and law," the city attorney emailed with palpable irony. "Mr. Mermelstein's actions with respect to the FBI do not merit any further comment."

**Power play:** When Gov. Snyder signed a bill banning straight-ticket voting in January, he set off howls from Democrats.

"It was completely partisan," says county clerk Larry Kestenbaum. "It was pushed by the Republicans in the legislature, and it will give the advantage to the

Republicans." The effect, he believes, will be to limit the impact of "the blue-collar black or Hispanic Democrat who votes straight party and leaves. There are probably some corresponding Republicans, but not as many."

Kestenbaum expects the law to reduce the Democratic vote in Wayne County, but doesn't think it will change much locally. "Washtenaw County as a whole has a more active and progressive voter, and a lot of folks will vote down ballot," agrees Brad O'Furey, campaign manager for many local Democrats. But O'Furey thinks it could change election outcomes "in the western Washtenaw state house district, with less voters voting in those races and less Democrats winning out there."

Partisan calculation aside, O'Furey is torn about whether the change is good or bad for democracy. "I lean both ways. It is good because we're allowing voters to vote on the merits and not on party lines, and the Founding Fathers warned against factions. But on the other hand, the coun-

try is a two-party system, and straight-party voting allows citizens to be partisan.

"The question is: are they [the Republicans] trying to promote democracy, or stack the deck in their favor?"

**Buffett's IUD:** Charlie Munger, longtime right-hand man of Berkshire Hathaway boss Warren Buffett, expanded the U-M's Central Campus with his new Munger Graduate Residence. In the long run, though, more locals may feel the impact of a much quieter, Buffett-funded innovation: a bargain birth-control device called Liletta.

Even before it became widely available here in January, fifty local women received the intrauterine device (IUD) from Planned Parenthood as part of a national clinical trial. Besides the two Ann Arbor Planned Parenthood locations, it has also been approved for use at the University of Michigan Health System. Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan spokesperson Desiree Cooper says Liletta is "especially important" because it costs just \$50—other IUDs start in the \$500 range.

Liletta costs so little because its development was funded by a nonprofit called Medicines360. The organization says the \$74 million in seed funding came from an anonymous donor—but tax filings show that the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation has given in excess of that figure to Medicines360.

The foundation was named for—and long run by—Warren Buffett's first wife. A strong supporter of abortion rights and birth control who died in 2004, Susan Buffett left the foundation nearly \$3 billion in Berkshire Hathaway stock.

**Community sing:** "You feel like you're at a campfire!" says Ann Arbor

rec supervisor Pam Simmons of the recently launched Ann Arbor Community Sing (see Events, February 7). The monthly sing-alongs at the Ann Arbor Senior Center attract grandparents, kids, and others. At the sing in December, a high schooler played his guitar while thirty or so people happily sang along.

Folksinger Dave Boutette had



a songbook in hand but also took suggestions of attendees—everything from obscure hymns to folk favorites like "If I Had a Hammer" and "This Land Is Your Land." Simmons emphasizes that no talent is required to take part—and they'll waive the \$5 fee if you're broke.

The Community Sing is the brainchild of Matt Watroba, a folksinger, songwriter, and host of the former "Folks Like Us" show on Detroit's WDET-FM. Inspired by a long-ago interview with the late troubadour Pete Seeger—who "reminded me that a big part of his career was to get people singing—all people, not just musicians"—he's on a mission to revive public singing in community centers, churches, camps, schools, and senior residences.

"There's not a lot of hometown, organic singing going on," Watroba says. "For some reason, it's been diverted to [watching TV] competitions."

Watroba says that group singing brings joy and health benefits—"it absolutely releases endorphins in the brain!"—and he's delighted that his efforts have taken root here. "The whole idea," he says, "is these songs are too important to leave to the professionals."



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# Inside Ann Arbor

## Disrupted

*When Select Ride closed in late December, many regular riders were left stranded.*

**I** used them for many years to get to the airport five or six times a year," says a retired local educator. "They were totally dependable."

But then they weren't. The educator said she had reserved a ride back to town from Metro Airport three weeks in advance only to find no ride waiting when her plane landed. "I had no idea the service had stopped," she says. She was rescued by Michigan Flyer VP Ody Norkin, who found her a seat on the Air-Ride bus—and arranged for another taxi company to take her home from the Blake Transit Center.

Dave Reid, general manager of Select Ride and its sister company Yellow Car, explains what happened by email.

"We were unprofitable, couldn't pay our bills, didn't have enough good help, didn't have enough vehicles to operate. We lost most of our vehicles the past summer due to repos when we could not make the payments on them."

They didn't make the payments because "2015 business was much less than half of 2014 ... probably closer to a third. Uber killed us by taking away most of the night business."

Uber wasn't the only culprit. When the AAATA discovered last spring that Select Ride wasn't paying drivers the city's living wage, as required by its \$2 million annual A-Ride contract, the authority found another provider for its service for passengers with disabilities. That alone killed close to half of Select Ride's business.

"Losing the AAATA contract is the primary reason that we failed," Reid says. "AAATA slid the living wage requirement in after the pricing had already been established for the contract." He says he "would have gladly paid" a living wage to A-Ride employees "if we had received the funding to do so."

Reid admits he's never paid the drivers the \$70,000 the AAATA estimated he owes them. He says Select Ride's building on Commerce Dr. is up for sale, and the remaining cars "will be taken over by Comerica Bank and the Small Business Administration because they have liens on them." And he himself is "looking for a job."

Phone calls to Select Ride are now being forwarded to Green Cab. "They felt they could recommend us over the competition," emails president Tim Tobias. "We're adding capacity right now because there's been a dramatic spike in demand. We're scrambling to hire drivers."

Blue Cab picked up the A-Ride business, and owner John Etter has expanded his fleet by buying Amazing Blue Taxi. "I bought the phone number and the



Dave Reid was already losing business to Uber when he posed for a story about the ride-sharing app last February. The final blow, though, came when AAATA learned he wasn't paying A-Ride drivers the city's living wage.

goodwill and hired as many drivers as we could take on," he says.

Etter agrees with Reid that ride-sharing apps have "destroyed the student market." He adds: "There's a lot we have to do to comply with the law, like have commercial insurance and do drug checks on our drivers. They don't have to, and they don't. There doesn't seem to be any regulation that applies to Uber."

But Etter believes cab companies will survive the online disruption: "There'll always be a market for regulated services: large customers like the U-M and the schools."

## Doggy Day Care

*"My mother thought we were insane when we first got into this," says Jon Svoboda.*

**S**voboda is speaking of his and his wife Margaret's decision to open Arbor Dog Daycare & Boarding in 2006. "Now," Svoboda says, "pet-related products and services are a \$50 billion business."

In the past most dogs lived outside, eating scraps, and sheltered in a barn or doghouse. As the nation prospered following World War II, they began to move inside. With their status elevated by an increase in single professionals, adults without children, and empty nesters, many are now embraced as family members: they sleep on comfy indoor dog beds (or crowd the beds of their owners); eat special high-priced raw and grain-free diets; and receive services from dog walkers,

trainers, visiting vets, groomers, masseuses, and psychics.

No wonder, then, that the doggy day care business is booming. There are at least eight in Ann Arbor, with many more operating out of dog-lovers' homes.

In November the Svobodas moved Arbor Dog from a 3,000-square-foot facility on S. Main to one twice as big on South Industrial. Boarding dogs sleep together overnight in a dorm-like room with a caregiver and

TV, dog beds, and a human couch and bed for their use. Many cuddle up on the bed next to the caregiver.

While Arbor Dog is one of a kind, Camp Bow Wow, on S. State, is a franchise with nearly 200 U.S. and Canadian locations, each boasting a log-cabin camp theme, with a fireplace and chairs at the entrance. Dogs are "campers," and caregivers are "camp counselors." "The dogs are kids," explains manager Ellen Macnee. "They're part of families. They're also pack animals that need socialization and playtime. Here, they play all day and then snooze the night away."

Karnik Pet Lodge, in back of the Maple Village shopping center, boasts state-of-the-art air filtration, vacuum and self-cleaning floor systems, and easy-to-clean outdoor doggy turf. Part of a small, Ohio-based chain, it has two floors of Plexiglas-walled rooms and suites with automatic water wells that border the white-plastic-fenced play areas. A separate section near the entrance is for kitty boarding. ("We haven't really had



Jon and Margaret Svoboda doubled the size of their Arbor Dog Daycare in November.

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## Inside Ann Arbor

anyone bring their cat in for day care,” says marketing and events coordinator Tori Davidson.)

Single and married professionals make up most of the doggy day care customer base. Dogs are placed in playgroups based on size and temperament, and webcams let owners check in on their four-legged friends. Some places include all services in a set price, while others have a la carte menus. Day care prices at the places we talked to range from \$15 for a half day up to \$27 for a full day. Each center also offers bath and nail trimming services as well as specialty retail products. Karnik's Davidson reports that the iced dog biscuits displayed in a clear case at the front desk “taste really good. You’d never know they’re dog biscuits.”

Moe, the beloved boxer of Stephanie and Dei McCarty, has been to Camp Bow Wow and Karnik. Moe has also attended, with his fellow day care dog mates, some of Karnik's many themed parties—Tailgate, Blizzard, Valentine's Day, and Spring Fever. Dei says doggy day care is just what high-energy Moe needs—he comes home exhausted and less hyper. “Instead of having to take him for a w-a-l-k (he's listening in, so I can't say it, or he'll go nuts) after work, we come home and relax,” Stephanie says.

Leslie Kamil's golden doodle, Samson, and double doodle, Levi, have been going once or twice a week to Arbor Dog for years. “Even though they play with each other, there's a value in their being able to socialize with other dogs and learning how to behave,” Kamil says.

“When I say to Levi that we're going to ‘school,’ he spins around in circles in the kitchen and then heads to the car.”

## Green Gifts

*Thanks to donations from the public, environmental education weathered the Ann Arbor Public Schools' budget cuts.*

Environmental education has been part of the AAPS since 1961, when Bill Stapp organized nature field trips at Wines Elementary as a U-M dissertation project. Supported first by a gift from future AAPS environmental specialist Eunice Hendrix through the Audubon Society, then by individual schools, the program spread across the district. It won funding from the central administration in 1988.

Bill Browning led the trips for many years, first assisted by Hendrix and Vera



COURTESY DAVE SZCZYGIEL

An environmental education field trip to Barton Dam. Supporters raised a \$260,000 endowment to keep the program alive.

Levenson, and later with Kay Lane and Janet Kahan.

It's just the kind of nice-but-not essential program, like physical education, that might have been cut back as the AAPS has struggled with shrinking funding in recent years. It survived mainly because it was targeted much earlier—and supporters fought to keep it.

A passionate educator and environmentalist, Stapp went on to found the U-M's environmental education program, helped organize the first Earth Day, and was the first head of UNESCO's environmental education section. But by the time he died in 2001, environmental education was endangered in the district where it started.

According to Dave Szczygiel, who took over from Browning in 1997, the EE program was slated to be cut in that year, in part due to the quest to fund a new high school. To save it, community members, teachers, students, and other supporters raised \$10,000 in small gifts to start a permanent endowment. The AAPS Science and Education Fund at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation has since grown to about \$260,000.

Endowment income, plus a grant from the AAPS Educational Foundation, now pays for environmental education field trips to places like Barton Dam and Recycle Ann Arbor's ReUse Center. The goal is to let students experience the complexity and beauty of nature while learning concepts of science and history and social interactions.

One of the most demanding programs is also one of most popular: an all-day “winter survival” program where fifth-graders learn to build a fire and cook their own lunch in the woods.

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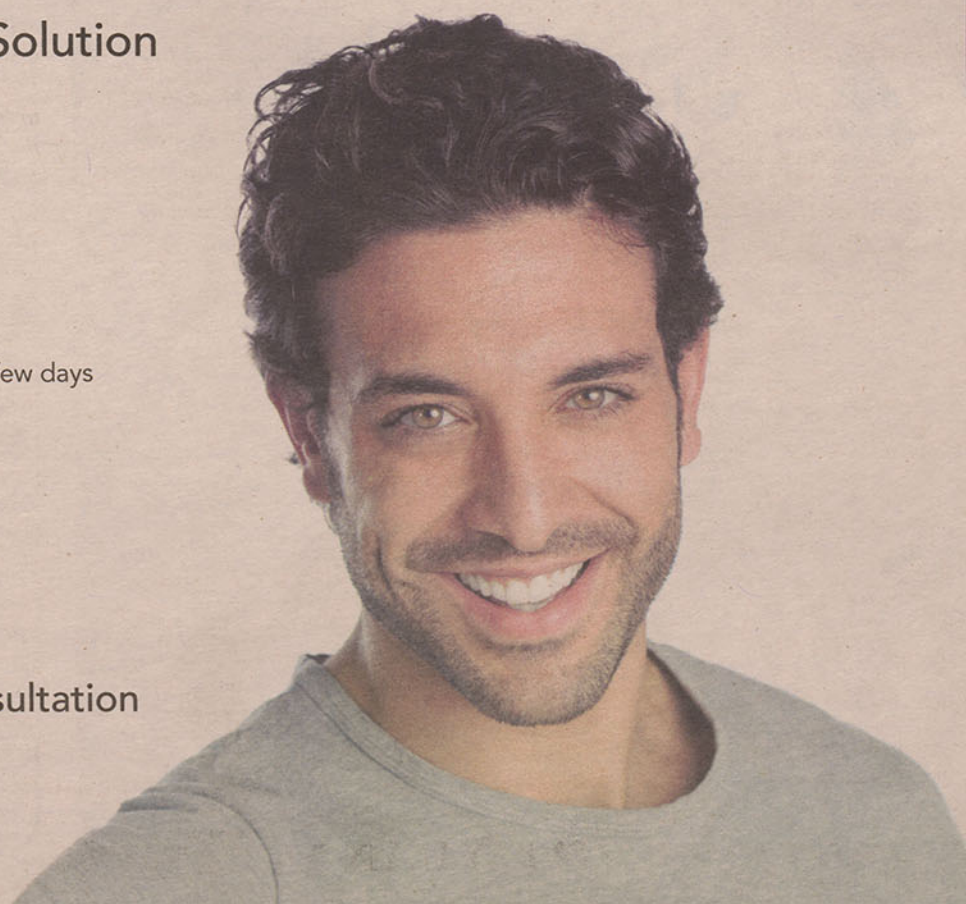


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## Inside Ann Arbor

### Sensors Inc.

*Joe Morrill remembers the moment so well he still speaks of it in the present tense.*

"I get off the plane at six o'clock after doing a users' conference in Düsseldorf, and my phone blows up," recalls the president of Sensors Inc. "All of a sudden here comes an email and a text and a text and an email and an email and a text, and before the weekend was over there were 700 stories on the Internet!"

The stories were about the Volkswagen emission scandal: diesel engines designed to show low pollution in the lab turned out to belch as much as an eighteen-wheeler on the road. And Morrill saw something familiar in the photos that illustrated them: portable emissions measurement systems (PEMS) designed and built by Sensors, a company born in Ann Arbor and now based in Saline.

The company was founded in 1969 to commercialize infrared technology developed at the U-M's Willow Run Laboratories (later the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan). Its big break came the following year, when Congress mandated tighter air pollution rules for cars and created the Environmental Protection Agency to implement them. "That led to the start of the inspection and maintenance programs where people bring their vehicles in to get [emissions] tested," explains Sensors VP Rob Wilson. "We made the measurement devices that determined whether you pass or fail."

Sensors dominated that market. "Eighty percent of the analyzers in this country were probably ours," says Wilson. From its headquarters and factory on State Rd., "we've sold close to 350,000 here and in Europe and Asia. This was our bread and butter."

But in the 1980s, carmakers started installing electronic engine control systems—and it became clear that the EPA would let shops check emissions simply by plugging into cars' on-board diagnostic (OBD) ports. "So no more tailpipe testing," says Wilson, who hired on in 1986. "Our business was going away."

A 1998 emission scandal changed Sensors' luck. "The EPA discovered [truck engine] manufacturers had algorithms to pass certification requirements for their engines," says Wilson. Just like the recent Volkswagen cars, the trucks looked good in the lab—but emitted as much as ten times as much pollution on the road.

The manufacturers agreed to \$1.2 billion in fines and penalties—some of which the feds reinvested in developing portable emission measurement systems small enough to be carried on



Rob Wilson and Joe Morrill Sales with their portable emissions lab. Sales have doubled since the VW scandal broke last fall.

### Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan

As every student of history knows, Ann Arbor was one of the last places on earth to be settled.

1 Seasonal Affective Disorder  
Turned back, couldn't find parking.

2 The U-M began as a dry goods store, then branched into undertaking and education.



The first U-M product: a stove made entirely of rawhide.

3 Young people have a weak sense of local history:

What was Dag Hammarskjöld's real name, when he was at Pioneer, before he formed the Stooges?

How could the Fight for Hill 114, in Korea, have taken place in Ann Arbor?

This had been Ojibwe land, and we still use some of their words.

4 Diag: Gathering Place for Drifters Wearing Black

Arb: Holding Hands and Necking Place of Big Time Romance

5 The Huron River was built in 1962 and it was an immediate success. It was America's first nuclear river. Then coffee shops were discovered, leading to a great rush of immigration.



6 Ann Arbor's future is difficult to

predict (other than the obvious: many, many more clock towers). There is news that the city may be able to get a good deal on water (from Flint).





## NEW HOME SITES SELLING FAST AT TOLL BROTHERS' RIDING OAKS ESTATES COMMUNITY

Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, recently released a new section of home sites in Ann Arbor and the response has been tremendous.

"These gorgeous new home sites are nestled in a wooded setting and most are on a cul-de-sac street providing low traffic and lots of privacy," says Melissa McMaken, Sales Manager for Toll Brothers in Ann Arbor. "These home sites are selling very quickly and we anticipate the remaining sites will not last long," she adds. Riding Oaks Estates is located in the picturesque west side of Ann Arbor, on the south side of Scio Church Road just west of Zeeb Road, offering a quiet country setting with easy access to many conveniences. The new section of home sites will offer home buyers a truly intimate setting with only 14 expansive home sites offering breathtaking views and most feature no rear neighbors. The homes range from 3,100 to 4,200+ square feet with four bedrooms and three and a half baths and feature an impressive palette of appointments. Home prices start in the mid-\$600,000s.

For detailed directions to our Sales Center and model home, visit [www.RidingOaksEstates.com](http://www.RidingOaksEstates.com) or call (734) 997-3800.

Also available in Ann Arbor is Woodlands of Geddes Glen located on the north side of Geddes Road, just east of Dixboro Road adjacent to the private, University of Michigan-owned Radrick Farms golf course. This luxury gated community offers Toll Brothers' largest and most elaborate homes on 32 stunning home sites, many featuring walkout or lookout basements and breathtaking golf course or wooded nature views. The homes range from 4,000 to 5,000+ square feet with first- or second-floor master suites and an impressive list of features. Prices start in the mid-\$800,000s. "The model home is stunning," Ms. McMaken, Sales Manager for Woodlands of Geddes Glen. "From the minute you walk in the front door, you will see why this exclusive gated community is one of the hottest in Ann Arbor." For a map and directions, visit [www.WoodlandsOfGeddesGlen.com](http://www.WoodlandsOfGeddesGlen.com) or call (734) 487-6700.

Both communities offer low township taxes, acclaimed Ann Arbor schools, and an Ann Arbor mailing address. All Toll Brothers homes are highly customizable with a vast selection of both decorative and structural options, such as gourmet island kitchens, expansive master suites, dual staircases, two-story family



rooms and foyers, oversize molding and signature interior trim details, and ten-foot first-floor ceilings and 9' second-floor ceilings.

For more information on both communities as well as a map and directions to the Ann Arbor sales center, visit [www.TollBrothers.com/AAO](http://www.TollBrothers.com/AAO).

Toll Brothers has built hundreds of homes in Ann Arbor since the company's

initial entry into the market in 1999. To date, the company has developed and built homes in the communities of The Pines at Lake Forest, Glenborough, Arbor Hills, Walnut Ridge, and Riverwood, as well as several semi-custom homes on privately owned property.

Toll Brothers, a Fortune 1000 company founded in 1967, is a publicly owned company whose stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange

(NYSE:TOL). The company was named America's Most Trusted Home Builder® 2015 by Lifestory Research. Toll Brothers was also recently named National Builder of the Year by BUILDER magazine and was twice-named National Builder of the Year by Professional Builder magazine. For more information, visit [TollBrothers.com](http://TollBrothers.com).

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## Inside Ann Arbor

a truck. "We worked very closely with the EPA," says Wilson. "They didn't know if it could be done."

Sensors figured out how to do it—and eventually, how to miniaturize its PEMS units to the point that they could be carried by even smaller vehicles. "It's basically a lab in a box," says Wilson, "what we call our Semtech DS. It had laboratory-grade analytical capability, but you can put in on any vehicle of any kind, any engine, anywhere." Mounted on a trailer, it can even test the exhaust of motorcycles and snowmobiles.

Semtech made Sensors the industry leaders once again. "Everybody uses the equipment," says Wilson, "all the research institutions, the academics, the agencies. We probably have close to a hundred customers throughout the world." And that was before the Volkswagen scandal drove home the need for on-the-road emissions testing.

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## question corner

**Q.** I am wondering about standards for fixing potholes. Is there a minimum height for the pile of repair tar and gravel (knowing that it will compress over time)? Are some holes deemed too large for filling (requiring a different repair method)? Does water in a hole cause a problem for repair?

**A.** The city uses two pothole-repair mixes: "cold patch" and "hot patch." Both consist of asphalt, adhesives, and gravel. Hot patch is superior but because it is installed at very high temperatures (about 300°F), it can't be used in the winter.

Cold patch is generally considered a temporary fix, although improved formulations are continually developed. It is piled above the road surface to allow for compression over time; while there is no minimum height, too thick an application can slow curing and hardening. The ideal thickness is about two inches.

Some cold-patch recipes have trouble with dilution from water in the hole, but other cold-patch products are made with polymer adhesives that can handle water. Ann Arbor reports that its cold-patch mix can handle water. However, cold patch can suffer from the same freezing and thawing cycles that created the pothole, so reapplications may be required.

Sometimes the hole is too big for cold patching to be effective. It may be applied anyway to make the road usable until the weather warms enough to make a permanent repair with hot patch.

Got a question? Email [question@aaobserver.com](mailto:question@aaobserver.com).



The impact has been “unbelievable,” Wilson says. The company does not release financial data, but since the news broke in September, he says, PEMS sales have doubled. “There’s going to be a huge move to on-road testing,” says CEO Don Soenen. “It’s going to become the standard.”

Soenen bought the company from its founders in the late 1970s, sold it to a larger company in the 1980s, then bought it back in 1991, and sold it to its employees in 1998. He handed the president’s post to Morrill last summer, but remains the company’s elder statesman and guiding spirit.

“The Volkswagen issue has gone viral worldwide,” Soenen says. “Korea is just as concerned about this as they are here and

in Europe.” Even China is finally getting serious about cleaning up its horrendous urban air pollution. And carmakers and regulators in those countries will all need portable emissions measurement systems.

With Sensors’ success guaranteed for the foreseeable future, the sixty-nine-year-old Soenen has moved on to other challenges, including turning a former Plymouth middle school into an arts and recreation center. But “I still hang out here,” he says with a smile.

“If I’m here, I’m going to say something,” Soenen adds. Despite the vast changes in the auto industry and emissions regulation since Sensors was founded in 1969, “the laws of physics haven’t changed very much.”

## calls & letters

### Donation Solution

To the Observer:

I was saddened to read of the experiences of the Kirk family in regard to the donation of Jan Kirk’s body to the U-M Medical Center [“Expensive Donation,” Up Front, January]. When my wife died in September, 2014, her eyes were donated to the Eye Bank and her body was taken by an organization called MedCure, without any fees. MedCure had been presented to us when my wife entered Arbor Hospice. Her body, as she wanted, was taken for medical research. When that was finished, her body was cremated and the ashes returned to me. With her cremated remains came a wildflower seed that we planted in our church’s memorial garden in the place where we had distributed her ashes. There were no charges for any of these services.

MedCure can be reached at 18111 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR 97230. Toll Free 1 866 560 2525. medcure.org.

Our whole family was very pleased with the services provided by MedCure, and no one asked for any money!

Sincerely,  
Rev. Kenneth W. Phifer

### Navigating roundabouts

“It seems that we misunderstood your question regarding who had the right of way,” Washtenaw County Road Commission communications coordinator Katie Parrish emailed after reading our story about drivers unsure how to safely navigate traffic circles (Up Front, January). “In a multi-lane roundabout, like State & Ellsworth, drivers should select the correct lane before entering the roundabout.” The road commission has produced a pair of instructional brochures about roundabouts that can be picked up at its office at 555 N. Zeeb Rd. or downloaded at [wcroads.org/About/Brochures](http://wcroads.org/About/Brochures).

### Milarch’s roles at PNT

Theatre Nova artistic director Carla Milarch emailed to correct an error in our account of her history at the former

Performance Network Theatre (“Final Curtain,” Inside Ann Arbor, January): she switched roles from executive director to associate artistic director more than two years before the theater closed for the first time in May 2014.

### Credit for Alex Yerkey

To the Observer:

Thanks so much for your article on Brad O’Furey [“Campaign Manager to the Stars,” January]—he’s a tremendous asset to the community and did first class campaign management work for me and others. I’d like, however, to also ensure that his former business partner, Alex Yerkey, gets recognized. Brad and Alex co-managed my 2014 campaign through their business, Checkmate Campaign Strategies. They are tremendously talented campaign managers, sophisticated in their approach, low-drama in their demeanor. Last summer, Alex managed two successful Council challenger campaigns, and he is working again this season in the 52nd District race. I have the highest regard for them both.

Sincerely,  
Christopher M. Taylor

Former county water resources commissioner Janis Bobrin emailed two corrections to the article’s electoral history: “First, Adam Zemke lost his [2010] race for County Commissioner, and second, Carol Kuhnke ran for Circuit Court Judge against Jim Fink, not his brother Carl (former judge).”

### Eve’s number

When she reopened her eponymous restaurant in the Bell Tower Hotel, Eve Aronoff Fernandez went to a great deal of trouble to get the same phone number she’d used at her prior location in Kerrytown. So we’re especially sorry to have fat-fingered a digit when we listed it in our January Marketplace Changes article. The correct number is (734) 222-0711.

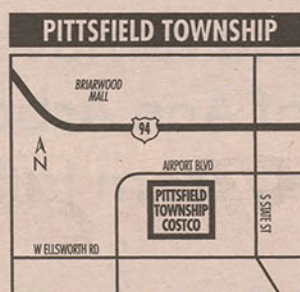
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# City of Ann Arbor Implements Deer Cull



In August 2015, City Council approved the establishment of Ann Arbor's deer management program. The city has contracted with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS), whose trained marksmen will use suppressed firearms to cull and remove up to 100 deer from designated City of Ann Arbor parks and nature areas in Wards 1 and 2 only from Jan. 2 through March 1, 2016.

**The below parks are closed for all purposes Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. due to cull activities.** All parks remain open during regular hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Barton Nature Area           | 9. Leslie Park Golf Course  |
| 2. Bird Hills Nature Area       | 10. Leslie Woods Nature Area  |
| 3. Black Pond Woods Nature Area | 11. Olson Park ( <i>The dog park will remain open during regular hours.</i> ) |
| 4. Bluffs Nature Area           | 12. Ruthven Nature Area   |
| 5. Cedar Bend Nature Area       | 13. South Pond Nature Area  |
| 6. Furstenberg Nature Area      | 14. Stapp Nature Area   |
| 7. Huron Parkway Nature Area    |   |
| 8. Kuebler Langford Nature Area |   |

**Frequently Asked Questions: [a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://a2gov.org/deermanagement)  
Email: [DeerManagement@a2gov.org](mailto:DeerManagement@a2gov.org) | Deer Hotline: 734.794.6295**



# Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

## Groundhog Day

*When the dirt flies*

**T**he groundhog is coming out!" We were sitting at the kitchen table last year when Jorja spotted the dirt flying up from the ground at the very back of our yard. The mound of excavated earth kept getting bigger and bigger, and then out came our resident groundhog. It climbed out of its hole, looked around at the snow, stretched its legs a bit, and then

go back into the burrow and die if the mother does not return.

Other popular habitats include rolling farmlands, brushy fence lines, woodlots, and forest edges. Washtenaw County naturalist Shawn Severance says County Farm Park has lots of groundhogs—in warmer months, she sees them frequently running in and out of the tall vegetation around the retention ponds. The park's Project Grow gardens are another good place to look—groundhogs have a fondness for garden vegetables and some farm crops.



sat down, basking briefly in the winter sun. It glanced at its hole and decided it needed some more cleaning out. Back in it went, more dirt flew out, and then, that job done, it went back down into its burrow.

Groundhogs are a species of the genus *Marmota*, which makes them close relations to squirrels (some sources call them giant ground squirrels). They're also known as woodchucks, a mispronunciation of a Native American name that gave rise to the old tongue twister: "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" But we'll go back to calling this animal a groundhog, in honor of Groundhog (not Woodchuck) Day on February 2.

Karen Oconnor of Help4Wildlife.com, has been rehabbing groundhogs for five years. Last year she raised seven groundhog babies from three different litters. She suggests looking for groundhogs in backyards and along roadside edges.

Unfortunately, that attraction to roads also increases their chances of becoming roadkill. According to Oconnor, if a mother groundhog has a mishap while out of the burrow, the babies will come out looking for her. Often when baby wild animals are seen alone, the advice is to leave them be. However, in the case of baby groundhogs, Oconnor suggests scooping them up and bringing them to a rehabilitator. Otherwise, the babies will

Gardeners don't appreciate that, but at County Farm Park the practice is to leave them alone. Severance notes that they are an important part of nature, and their burrows are used by lots of other animals.

We have never had a problem with our groundhog. It stays in its part of the yard, and we reciprocate by not destroying its habitat. But, if necessary, there are several ways of moving a groundhog. Oconnor mentions pouring large quantities of used kitty litter down the groundhog hole—but only after May, to be sure that any babies are gone.

The Groundhog Day ritual consists of taking a captive groundhog outside. Legend has it that if the groundhog sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil is the most famous prognosticator, but some other states also have their own groundhogs; Woody will be the guest of honor at several late January–early February events at the Howell Nature Center.

Don't expect to see a wild groundhog come out of its burrow at the beginning of February around here. Most likely it will be too cold, and the local groundhogs will still be hibernating. Start looking in the second half of the month. Our groundhog came out last year on March 8 and then went back down. According to Groundhog Day lore, more winter was on its way.

—Bob & Jorja Feldman

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As part of this program we also have two, eight-week courses to promote healthy activity by encouraging adults, 50 and older, to utilize parks for physical activities, learn new active skills, meet new people, and improve fitness and overall well being. More details to follow.

Funding for the program is provided by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund in partnership with the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association to encourage citizens to utilize community parks, trails and recreation amenities to be physically active.



To pick up your passport and learn more about this program attend a free kick-off event on the following dates from 2-4 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 6**  
Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Arena  
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**Saturday, May 7**  
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**Saturday, June 4**  
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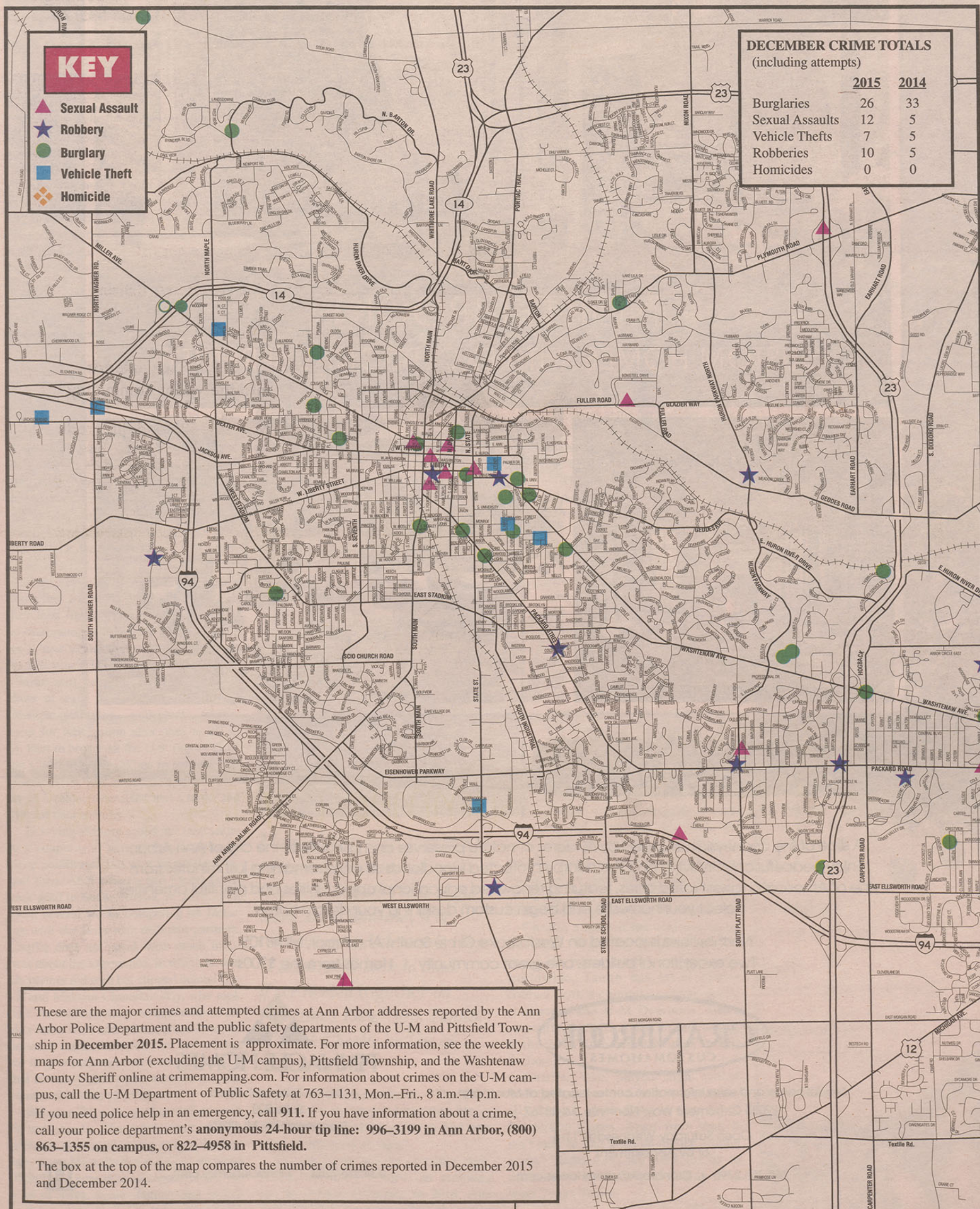
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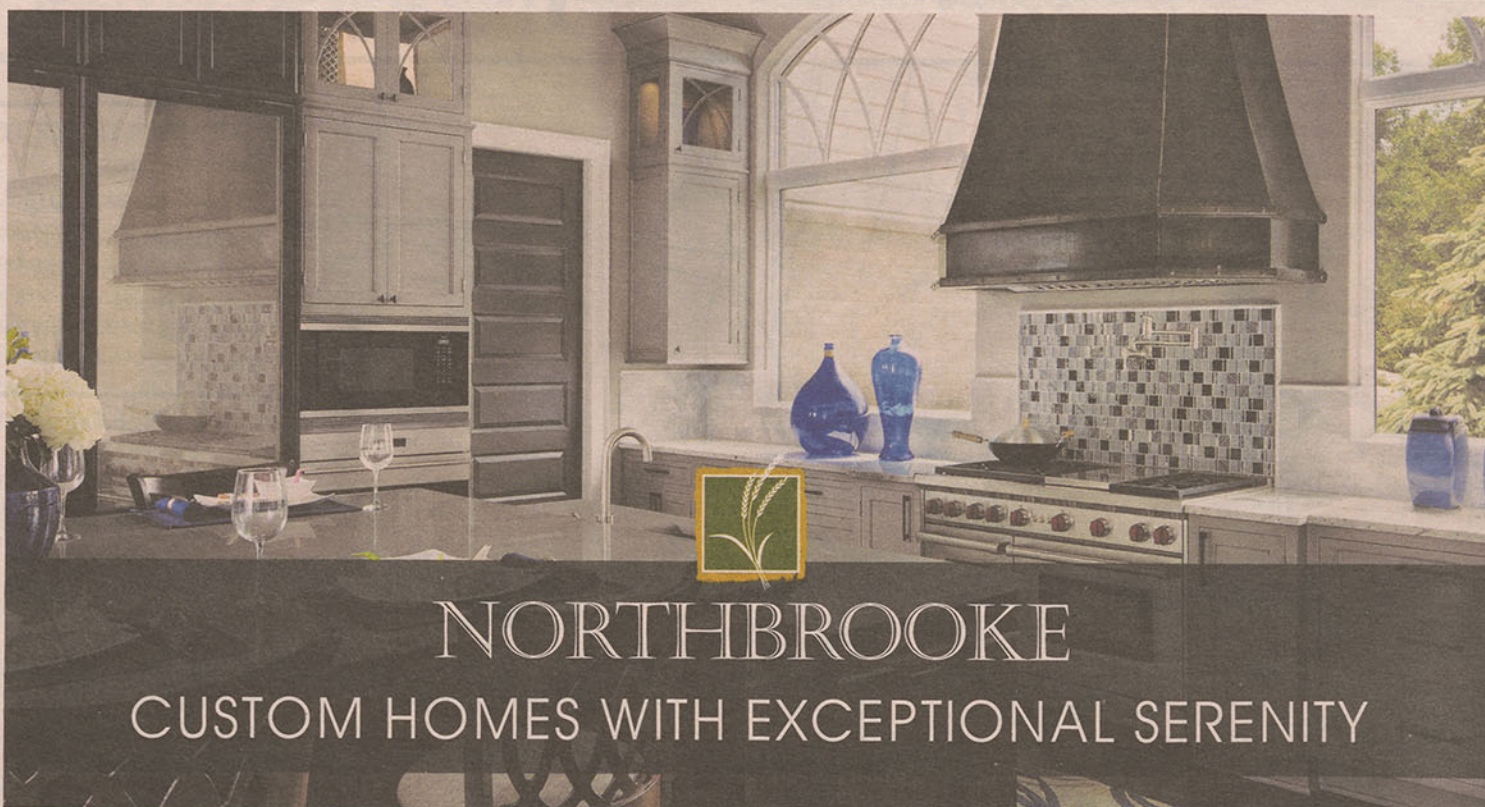
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# Ann Arborites

## Charlie and Tanith White

### Life after the Olympics

At Café Zola, the waiter bringing coffee smiles at the attractive young couple but doesn't recognize either Charlie White, 2014 Olympic gold medalist in ice dancing, or Tanith Belbin White, who took silver in the same event in 2006 and now does commentary for NBC Sports. They don't mind. Charlie, twenty-eight, says he is recognized mainly when in the company of Meryl Davis, his Olympic partner.

"There's a lot of 'Oh, my God, you're Meryl Davis,'" he says, his voice rising in mock excitement, "and ... and? ... Charlie White!"

On this January day he is incognito, sort of. He laughs and gestures at his head. His distinctive topping of gold curls, which reporters have compared to a Disney prince's, is darker than in the Olympic photos and clamped under a headband. He's also wearing glasses. Tanith, too, has turned down the glamour since her days on the ice; her tawny hair is styled simply, her eye makeup subtle. A shimmering smart watch is the only clue of her high-powered life. Charlie, the more talkative of the two, keeps an arm draped over her shoulders.

They married last April and live in a house they renovated on the west side. But they look blank when asked how they'll be celebrating on Valentine's Day. "I think we'll have to check if we're even together on Valentine's Day," says Tanith. "I think Charlie will be in Switzerland." She is about to leave for Nebraska to cover an Olympic-qualifying volleyball tournament for NBC; soon after, they're off to St. Paul to broadcast the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. When in town, Tanith coaches skaters at the Arctic Edge ice center in Canton, where she and Charlie did most of their training.

Dizzying as those schedules may seem, to a couple who have trained intensively since childhood, this is a relatively tranquil time. After Charlie and Meryl Davis took gold in Sochi, Russia, in 2014, each spent several weeks competing on *Dancing with the Stars* with different partners. Charlie does not speak with much fondness about the experience, in which he and his partner did well but slipped behind Davis and Maksim Chmerkovskiy, who took first. He dislikes being recognized as a "reality show star" and refers obliquely to the pressure competitors felt "on and off the ice to give interviews in a certain way ... that certainly didn't jibe with what I was comfortable with as an athlete."

But even Olympic gold medalists can't be too choosy. The public isn't in love with ice skating as it was even a decade ago, when Michelle Kwan earned millions of dollars a year in endorsement deals. "In a lot of ways, figure skating used to live in the domain that's now taken by reality



*Married last April, they live in a house they renovated on the west side. But they look blank when asked how they'll be celebrating on Valentine's Day. "I think we'll have to check if we're even together on Valentine's Day," says Tanith. "I think Charlie will be in Switzerland."*

television," Charlie reflects. "The [TV] personalities are kind of larger than life ... The sport's sort of struggled to find new ways to interact with fans."

He and Davis are not currently competing, but haven't ruled out returning for the Winter Olympics in 2018. And they remain close personally—she was a

bridesmaid at Charlie and Tanith's wedding. (Tanith's skating partner, Benjamin Agosto, was master of ceremonies.)

They've been together for seven years. Though family and other elite skaters knew about their relationship, they were discreet in public to protect the aura of romance in their on-ice partnerships. "A lot of it is like acting," Charlie explains. "A lot of the stories you're telling ... you want people to believe you're in love."

In fact, he and Davis were never romantically involved, nor were Tanith and Agosto. "A lot of time partners do end up dating each other, and sometimes it goes well—but often it doesn't," Charlie says. "In a sense, both of us were lucky that we never dated our partners."

The future couple met as young teens at the Arctic Edge. "She was the most beautiful girl at the rink!" Charlie recalls, and quickly adds, "She still is."

Though both were tapped early as potential stars, they were never paired together; Tanith, now five-foot-six, was considered too tall for Charlie, who is five-foot-nine. He was born in Royal Oak and grew up in Bloomfield Hills; she moved to Canton from Quebec to train, later becoming a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen.

Their relationship endured the strain of competing against each other in the 2010 Olympics, where Charlie's pair finished third, Tanith's fourth. "Our senses of humor bonded us," Tanith says.

Both say that growing up in competition helped them develop professional attitudes. That neither is competing now, Tanith says, reinforces "the other aspects of your life that bring you joy." This includes the hours they spend playing with their dogs, sometimes in the Arb; dining out in Ann Arbor; and, recently, taking a cooking class at Sur La Table, one of their wedding gifts from Meryl Davis.

Charlie attended the University of Michigan, majoring in political science. He now skates in exhibitions worldwide. Tanith has taken online courses with a communications major at Eastern and U-M Dearborn. She's currently preparing for broadcasting at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Charlie, who played high school hockey, has been known to occasionally drop in at the Cube in Ann Arbor for pickup games. Apart from that, it isn't easy to find them on the ice around town. "Right now, it's hard for us to disassociate [recreational] skating from work," says Tanith.

—Eve Silberman

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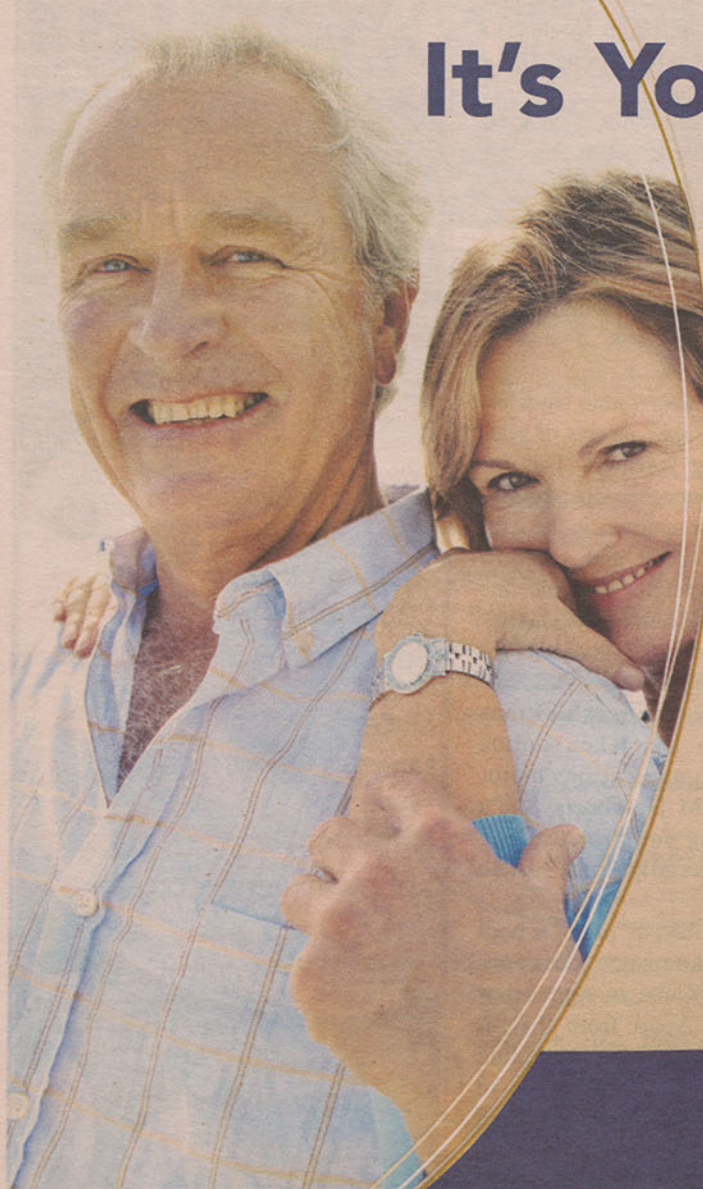
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# MyTown

## Wet Paint

### Slippery sidewalks at the Rock

There are advantages to living near the Rock. It's a useful landmark for visitors, and we can check out its ever-changing appearance daily. We've even painted it ourselves twice, which is not as easy as it looks. It's hard to get the right leverage and height, and it's pretty bumpy. So I can see why many Rock painters extend their efforts to a flat, easy-to-reach surface nearby ... the public sidewalk that surrounds its small, triangular block.

That's the disadvantage to living near the Rock: wet paint is as slippery as ice. About eight years ago my elderly mother-in-law set off to our synagogue on Hill St. only to return fifteen minutes later, her lovely outfit covered in a weird shade of hot pink. She had slipped on the freshly painted sidewalk by the Rock. She was ruffled but otherwise uninjured.

My husband took his mother's ruined outfit to Mayor Hieftje during his weekly office hours. The mayor tut-tutted and then shrugged, saying that the city was not responsible.

Since then I have scolded and sometimes yelled at people painting the sidewalk in front of the Rock—to no avail.

We learned to be alert when walking that particular patch of sidewalk. But a few months ago, as I walked past the Rock on a lovely evening, I was distracted by the sky, which was turning an amazing shade of dark blue. And suddenly there I was, on my tuchus on a freshly painted sidewalk. The girls who had just painted it erupted in cries of "Oh my God! Are you OK?" One picked up my hat, and another helped me to my feet.

Back home, after a lot of scrubbing, I put on fresh clothes, grabbed my camera, and headed back to the scene. The perpetrators were gone, but had helpfully painted the name of their sorority over three squares of pavement. I



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

sent the photos, and another of my paint-covered clothes, to the university's director of Greek life, asking for a modest \$25 in compensation for my ruined skirt and top. The director responded that someone from the sorority would be in touch and send me a check.

*I was distracted by the sky,  
which was turning an  
amazing shade of dark blue.  
And suddenly there I was,  
on my tuchus on a freshly  
painted sidewalk.*

And sure enough, I heard from the sorority's advisor—requesting a receipt from a dry cleaner. "It is standard policy that all student organizations abide by the Student Organization Account Service (SOAS)," she emailed. "So if you can bring in a receipt we can have the check issued."

This seemed ridiculous. I work full-time, and my clothes—Walmart's finest couture—were beyond a dry cleaner's help. I suggested that one of the sorority sisters could pick up the clothes and oversee the forensic investigation.

In my naiveté, I assumed the sorority would welcome the chance to resolve the matter—after all, we were only talking about twenty-five dollars and a trip to a

dry cleaner, not a broken leg or concussion. But I'd underestimated the obstinacy of the university bureaucracy. "[S]ince you will not provide documentation," the advisor emailed, all she could do was offer to pay me out of her own pocket.

I wrote back and suggested the sorority could send the check to Make-A-Wish Michigan, and a note of apology to me. And that's the last I heard. No donation, no letter.

Soon after my accident, city council voted to crack down on people who don't clear their sidewalks of snow and ice. I guess wet paint is different: my emails to the mayor's office and my ward representatives got no response.

One day someone is going to be badly injured on the sidewalk near the Rock, and someone is going to be sued. Until then, I recommend walking on the grass.

—Nehama Glogower

## Poetic Advice

*Allen Ginsberg  
messed me up.*

The party guests talked about climate change, fracking, Syria, and Iran. "I called my representative and senator to thank them for voting against Keystone," a woman told me—then asked me how many more generations humans have left.

"How many more generations on earth?" I asked. "I'd say about 100."

"I think there's [just] one more," she said.

When Allen Ginsberg visited my sophomore poetry class in Ann Arbor in 1969, he said we had five years left. "I'm afraid to read the papers," he said. "There's too much killing. And I just talked to [William] Burroughs, who said there's less than five years."

Ginsberg was a friend of our visiting professor, East Village poet Ted Berrigan. Berrigan was a friend of U-M English professor and poet Donald Hall. That's how Ginsberg found himself prophesying to the young poets taking Introduction to Poetry 231—and how, at age nineteen, I became a fatalist. Why take organic chemistry and physics and go to med school when the world was about to end?

The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970. People began talking less about Vietnam and more about duck down and goose down. Back to the land, kids. I bought a \$35 duck-down sleeping bag. The feathers kept coming out the seams and I couldn't turn over in it, but I used it for many years. It was called a mummy bag. At least when the world ended, I'd be in the proper position.

I am now sixty-five and slowly getting over my doom-and-gloom outlook. For instance, I love fracking, because I own apartment buildings and my gas bills are super low. At another recent cocktail party, an acquaintance pontificated, "I don't think we're out of here—humanity. There are six billion of us. So maybe we'll go down to two billion, at worst." A compromise that I could live with.

I never did apply to med school. I was too busy writing poetry about the end of the world. Ginsberg messed me up! The good news: I still have my biology dissection scissors. They're great for cutting fingernails.

Lesson to college kids: don't believe old people who tell you the world is about to end. I coulda been a doctor!

—Bert Stratton

Stratton's klezmer band, *Yiddishe Cup*, is at the Ark on February 6 (see *Nightspots*, p. 46).

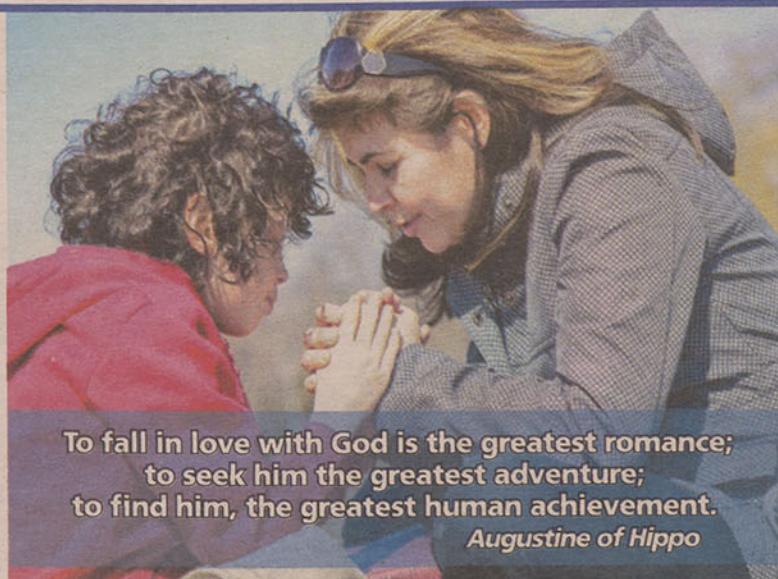
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The biggest public works project in the city's history—a \$94 million reconstruction and renovation of the wastewater treatment plant—is almost done, and it smells marvelous.

That's the first thing to strike me on my third trip to the plant since 2009. On my first visit, the original West Plant, which dated to the 1930s, had deteriorated so badly that it had been shut down. That left the 1970s-vintage East Plant as the only thing standing between the city's sewage and the Huron River.

When I came back in 2013, they were demolishing the old West Plant. Now, at the turn of the year, it's almost completely gone, replaced by a brand-new West Plant. The new plant went online in November—and the smell that hung over the bend of the Huron River below Gallup Park is gone.

Something like the Flint water crisis won't happen here because Ann Arbor has never used lead water pipes. But that doesn't mean we couldn't have dirty water pouring from the tap or sewage spewing into the Huron.

Mike Amicangelo, the plant's senior utility engineer, starts my tour of the new plant at the end. "This is our final purifier," he says, pointing to two huge round basins of calm water. "This is where the solids settle out. From here the flow goes to the tertiary filter building, and from there it goes to UV disinfection and then into the river."

We next step into the blower building, where three massive machines blast the flow outside with oxygen. "We use one or maybe two [at a time], but we always have a backup," Amicangelo shouts over the noise.

The blowers feed two new "trains," interconnected tanks filled with roiling water where the oxygen hits the sewage.

Mike Amicangelo shows off bacteria cleaning the city's sewage at the new West Plant.



PHOTOS: MARK BIALEK

"You can look at it and tell if it's working," says Amicangelo. "When it rolls like that, you know you've got it about right. By starving the bugs [bacteria added to digest the sewage], as soon as they hit the oxygen they start consuming all the nutrients in the wastewater."

A faint smell hangs in the air above the trains. It grows stronger as we approach the new splitter building, where wastewater enters the plant. Compressed by massive metal screws, it's under so much pressure, Amicangelo tells me, that "if you were to cut a hole in that pipe, it would shoot fifty feet in the air!"

Amicangelo is overseeing the third great construction project in the sewage plant's history. The original West Plant was built in 1936 by the federal Works Progress Administration. The feds also paid half of the cost of the neighboring East Plant in the 1970s. The new West Plant, though, was paid for entirely by Ann Arbor's ratepayers—and there's still more work to be done.

The first phase of the work, the Residuals Handling Improvements Project, started in 2009 and was completed in 2012 at a cost of \$45 million. The current Facilities Renovations Project started in June 2012; now that the new West Plant is done, they'll move on to refurbishing the East Plant, which should be complete around September 2017. After that, the utilities department hopes to replace part of the plant that purifies the city's drinking water (see box, p. 28–29).

Something like the Flint water crisis won't happen here because Ann Arbor has never used lead water pipes. But that doesn't mean that we could never have dirty water pouring from the tap or sewage spewing into the Huron. That's what all this rebuilding and renovating is designed to prevent.

Inside the wastewater plant's new administration building, Amicangelo shows me the new control room, where one guy is looking at a couple of computer screens.

"I was expecting a big control system," laughs Amicangelo. "You can see what's going on with every component in the plant and control it from that little computer. We've got these [computers] located



throughout the entire plant, so 90 percent of the time this room is empty, because they can control it from wherever they are."

The original West Plant, he says, "had more than gone past its useful life." Since it went off-line in 2006, "we've spent about \$69 million, and the [new] West Plant is essentially done outside of landscaping." The project was on budget, but several months behind schedule.

"We had two very cold winters, so a lot of winter work got shut down," says Amicangelo. "And we had soils with high metal content. It's naturally occurring, but higher than [the state's Department of Environmental Quality] limits, so you can't just take this stuff anywhere."

Hence the mounds of dirt outside the new plant. Naturally occurring or not, the high metal levels meant that the excavated soil would have to be landfilled if it left the site, at \$10 a ton. "We were looking at an extra million dollars [in costs], so we cut a deal with the contractor," Amicangelo says. "Instead of removing the soil and bringing in clean sand, we reuse it on-site, which means excavate, stockpile, build, and backfill with the same stuff. It's cheaper but delayed construction."

The plant was going through its testing phase during my tour. So far it's passed. "We're getting good numbers," Amicangelo tells me. "Phosphorus is low. Nitrogen is good. It's more advanced than the last system and more efficient at removing phosphorus and nitrogen." In a later email, he adds that "[t]he new biological system is more efficient, consistent and reliable

than the previous system. With a few exceptions resulting from construction activities, we consistently met our permit limits—the maximum amount of pollutants that the EPA allows the city to discharge into the Huron.

Next up is the East Plant. "The whole electrical grid needs redoing," says Amicangelo. "We're replacing all the computer control systems, and more importantly we're going to refurbish the aeration basins."

How long till that's done? "We gave it two more years," Amicangelo smiles. "The contractor thinks a year and a half. So we wish him luck and do everything we can to help him achieve that goal!"

Through it all, the plant never stopped processing wastewater. "We're doing about eighteen million gallons a day," says Amicangelo. "The highest [day] of the past twenty years was over seventy million."

That was during the March 2012 storm that spawned the Dexter tornado. Unlike many older cities, Ann Arbor has separate sewers for wastewater and stormwater—but some buildings still discharge stormwater into the wastewater pipes. At the height of the storm, "we were pumping it into the retention basin, which is seventeen, eighteen million gallons," says Amicangelo. "We had every train online, and we still couldn't handle it."

"We got it under control, but some of it went down into the river. We weren't fined because the DEQ understood that this was beyond our control."



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## Cleansing the Waters

It could have been worse. Since 2001, the city's footing drain disconnection program has diverted stormwater from almost 2,000 homes into basement sump pumps for discharge on-site. But several residents have sued the city over the program (see Up Front, p. 9), and it's currently suspended for review.

At the wastewater treatment plant, at least, disconnecting footing drains remains popular. "Resumption of the program will only make things better here, as it will further reduce peak flows during rain events," Amicangelo emails. "The change in the East Plant will be beneficial as well. It will take a lot of stress off our shoulders during the warm-weather months."

The city built up nearly \$60 million in reserves before starting the project; the rest of the cost is being paid for by bonds. To pay them back, the city has been steadily raising water and sewer rates for the past decade. The work is being done in stages because former utilities chief Sue McCormick "put limits on us," Amicangelo says. "No more than 4 percent rate increase per year, for a total of 8 percent between the water department and us."

After the East Plant's done, Amicangelo figures the pumping stations are next. "We've got eight around the

## WATER'S NEXT

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is the last stop in the city's water system. The first is the Water Treatment Plant on Sunset Rd. And overhauling it is next on the city's agenda.

The plant is surrounded by metal fences topped with barbed wire, and its gate opens only after a pleasant-sounding woman approves visitors over the intercom.

"Homeland security," explains water treatment services manager Brian Steglitz. "You don't want to be the utility that's had a security breach, and someone contaminated the water supply."

We meet in a low-ceilinged conference room in the main building. "The original plant was constructed in 1938, and there've been expansions in 1949, 1965, and 1975," says Steglitz, who's soft spoken and very serious. Like the sewage plant, the Water Treatment Plant is actually two parallel plants. The original can process twenty-two million gallons a day, while the second can handle twenty-eight million.

"Before the plant, there was an open reservoir on this property called the Chubb Road Reservoir," Steglitz explains. "This whole area used to be apple orchards." As it does today, most of the water came from Barton Pond, with a small supplement from wells. The only treatment was to disinfect it with chlorine.

Things are much more complicated now. Steglitz explains that the plant's "heart and soul is primary treatment, which includes flocculation basins and clarifiers."

Flocc-u-what? "Our water is particularly hard, so we are a lime-softening plant," the civil engineer





Stockpiling dirt slowed the project, but saved the city \$1 million.

plant that are in poor condition. We're maintaining them, but we need to start designing replacements. That should be small. A brand new station is under a million dollars."

Amicangelo reckons the new West Plant will serve the city for most of the twenty-first century, "if we take care of it with upgrades and electric replacements. Your basic limit is the concrete."

But that will be someone else's problem. He plans to retire this month.

"I'm sixty-one now, and people say 'You're retiring too early,'" he says. "I say, 'There's a lot of stuff I want to do: work

on the house. I've got ten acres between Dexter and Chelsea. I love wildlife, and I want to put in nesting boxes."

As it turns out, Amicangelo's home is on a septic system. "It's only been cleaned once in twenty-four years," he laughs.

Amicangelo used to be a wildlife biologist working for the federal government. Funding was so volatile that "you never knew if you would have a job or not," he smiles.

Keeping the Huron River clean has been steadier work. "One thing people need no matter what is water," he says. "It's something they can't do without." ■

Parts of the Water Treatment Plant date to 1938. Brian Steglitz hopes to have update plans ready for city council this spring.

explains. "If we didn't soften, people would be replacing their hot water systems more frequently than they already have to. Along with softening, you're mixing chemicals in and creating this stuff called floc, which captures particles and settles them out in clarifiers."

After flocculating and clarifying, the plant disinfects, filters, fluoridates, and finally distributes the water to 125,000 utility customers in Ann Arbor and parts of Scio and Ann Arbor townships.

"We have one of the more complex water treatment plants in the state," says Steglitz. "It has to do with the nature of our water supply. With a river supply, water quality changes. If it rains, you have all this runoff coming off the roads and getting into the river. It affects the chemistry and the treatment process."

Steglitz says they want to replace the older plant because "we have some 1938 technology that we're still using." In the clarifying basins, for instance, the water is stirred by wooden boards running on chains and sprockets—an antiquated system that requires constant maintenance. "We spend a lot of time trying to keep this functional," Steglitz says.

The final filtering process, on the other hand, is right up-to-date. "Our filters are made of twelve inches of sand and eighteen inches of carbon," Steglitz explains. "They can remove particles down to micron size." Steglitz says that level of cleanliness compares well with the rest of the state. "We've won awards. People see us as leaders."

Working with public services area administrator Craig Hupy, they're currently studying what it would take to replace the oldest parts of the plant.

"It would probably be a couple of years' worth of design and a few years' worth of construction, so



start to finish would probably be five years," Steglitz says.

Assuming, that is, that city council approves: "The plan we're proposing needs the support of council because there's going to be a rate impact," Steglitz explains. "It's going to cost tens of millions ... Council approved the study [and] the contract to hire a consultant, so they are aware."

Steglitz says he'll likely update council on the project this spring. If they get the go-ahead, work could start in 2017 or 2018. But even when it's done, Steglitz says "people will probably not notice a difference."

"This is for future generations," he concludes. With the updates, "We should be able to be here for seventy-five years."

—J.L.

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# THE PURPLE ROSE AT TWENTY-FIVE

Jeff Daniels reflects on the theater he built.

by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

"**T**his place was born the day twenty-two-year-old Jeff Daniels started his apprenticeship at the Circle Repertory Theatre Company in New York," Guy Sanville says, sweeping his arm around the Purple Rose Theatre during a *Casting Session* rehearsal break. The artistic director removes his baseball hat and collapses onto a front-row seat. "Every time I sit in this theater, I think, 'Look at what he's done. Look at what we've made. All of us, working together.'"

This year, the Purple Rose Theatre Company is celebrating its twenty-fifth season. In the past quarter-century, the theater has grown from an actor's dream to a cultural landmark whose list of awards and honors runs to eight pages, single-spaced. The theater also accounts for an estimated \$3.6 million annual economic impact on Washtenaw County.

Daniels traces his acting career to a sixth-grade classroom at Beech Middle School. In 1966, music teacher DiAnn L'Roy asked him to impersonate a senator giving a speech—while his pants were falling down. Long beyond his allotted three minutes, the boy kept the class—and visitors attracted by the commotion—in an uproar.

"That day I learned that I was good at something," says Daniels, who'll turn sixty-one this month. "I discovered what I wanted to do with my life."

On a blindingly sunny day, the actor/director/playwright/singer/songwriter/theater founder is relaxing at his Cavanaugh Lake home. In an office filled with books, mementoes, family photos, and several of his many awards, he leans back in his desk chair, links his hands behind his head, and plops his bare feet on

the desk as he begins the story of his, and Chelsea's, theater.

Daniels majored in theater at Central Michigan University; as a junior, he auditioned for a spring theater festival at Eastern Michigan. New York City director Marshall Mason was in town to help with the festival and picked Daniels for the lead in two productions, Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* and Lanford Wilson's *Hot L Baltimore*.

Before the first performance, Mason pulled Daniels aside and asked, "You know what you should do with your life, don't you?" He urged Daniels to move to New York and apprentice with the Circle Rep. With his parents' blessing, Daniels dropped out of college and headed to New York.

It was a big step. "Suddenly I was thrown into New York-style acting, where the directors are taking our emotions and directing us in a way that resembled public therapy," Lanford Wilson, who worked exclusively with Marshall Mason, became Daniels' mentor and introduced him to a new interest: playwriting—"which was the fuel for my starting the Purple Rose Theatre," he says.

The Chelsea native apprenticed for two years, supporting himself by appearing in commercials until he became an Equity actor in 1976. But he was already looking beyond New York. Seeing Al Pacino in *Dog Day Afternoon*, he says, "convinced me that theater could be the means to an end—and I wanted that end to be movies."

In 1981, Daniels made his film debut in *Ragtime*. Two years later, he played Debra Winger's husband in the Oscar-winning *Terms of Endearment*. Then, in 1985, he was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in Woody Allen's film *The Purple Rose of Cairo*.

Working with Allen changed his life and career. "I was thirty years old when *The Purple Rose of Cairo* came along. It was my step up. I knew it. And I was terrified." I asked myself, 'Am I good enough to be here?' His question was answered when Jeffrey Kurland, Allen's longtime costume designer, told Daniels, "Woody wants me to tell you that you're really good."

Daniels pauses. "I'll never forget that ... My first thought was not, 'I'm gonna be a big star,' but, 'Okay, I can make a living in the business.'"

**F**ollowing his marriage to Chelsea native Kathleen Treado, the birth of their son, Ben, and another Golden Globe best actor nomination for his 1986 performance in *Something Wild*, the family decided to return to Chelsea. Lucas was born the following year, Nellie in 1990. "There's no question about it: that decision to move to Chelsea affected my career. Michigan is a far cry from New York and L.A.," Daniels concedes. "But both Kathleen and I have family here and a strong support system. We wanted to raise our kids here, and they have always come first."

Although he loved being home again, he missed the energy that comes from being surrounded by other actors. So he and Kathleen began discussing the idea of starting a regional theater modeled after the Circle Rep. They quietly began scouting possible locations.

At the time, Chelsea was full of empty storefronts and industrial buildings. "We were all concerned about Chelsea's future," recalls Ann Feeney, who was working for Chelsea's Chamber of Commerce at the time. "Chelsea was in an economic downturn. There were a dozen possible places for Jeff to choose."

The Danielses bought a dilapidated building at 137 Park Street for \$150,000, then called on a circle of friends for ideas, advice, funding, and manual labor. "We wanted to give Michigan's twenty-one-year-olds the same opportunities I had been given," Daniels says.

"We called ourselves 'The Founding Four,'" Daniels' friend Bart Bauer says. "Jeff had the vision. I

supervised the renovations. Doug Beaumont served as treasurer. Newell Kring was in charge of the artistic side ... when Jeff was off doing movies." Soon afterwards, Daniels created a board of directors, starting with John Mann (now president of the Chelsea State Bank) and Bill Holmes of the Chelsea Milling Company. Holmes remembers the first board meeting around a makeshift table made from a discarded door lying across sawhorses.

"We were flying by the seat of our pants," Daniels agrees. He grins when he describes the early days. "The building was a tinderbox of kindling."

Maintaining a strict shoestring budget, he and his board decided their first priority must be comfortable seats—purple seats. Everything else would be borrowed, adapted, or purchased inexpensively. Initial renovations totaled \$168,000—"just so we could function," Daniels says. "This crazy idea didn't make any business sense whatsoever ... We launched this theater on blind faith. I thought I had enough fame to get audiences to come once. Then we'd get 'em with the quality of what we were doing."

During the reconstruction, Daniels ran an announcing open auditions at the Chelsea Methodist Church. He hoped to identify talented playwrights, directors, and thirty actors "who wouldn't need a lot: just molding, changing, and slapping the bad out of them."

Each actor was asked to perform two brief monologues, one comedic, one dramatic. "Our criteria was believability," Daniels says. "Good actors play real



Daniels with artistic director Guy Sanville and playwright Lanford Wilson (above) and reviewing plans for the original Garage Theatre with the "Founding Four."





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# PURPLE ROSE IN FULL BLOOM

people. They must absolutely believe and mean what they're saying. Show-and-tell acting wasn't what we wanted."

*Blush at Nothing*, written by Lisa Wing, opened on February 7, 1991, in a theater that still smelled of sawn lumber and fresh paint. Daniels struggled to find local playwrights. "We wanted people to write about life here in Michigan, about people and places familiar to our audiences," he says. "It took ten years to develop a stable of playwrights."

Daniels stepped into the breach. His first play for the theater was *Shoe Man*, a comedy in which a game of golf leads to infidelity and hilarity. "I wrote *Shoe Man* thinking that if nothing else, the audience would come to see a movie star's play," Daniels says.

The comedy attracted growing audiences and won glowing reviews. It also convinced Daniels that "funny sells tickets." With *The Tropical Pickle* in 1992, he challenged himself to see how much humor he could pack into a play.

"We needed \$300,000 to keep the doors open, so *The Tropical Pickle* had a lot riding on its success—or failure," he recalls. "Fortunately, it became a hit ... We came out of *The Tropical Pickle* with \$100,000 in the bank." The play also introduced Guy Sanville to the theater. Three years later he replaced Kring as artistic director.

As soon as the theater was completed, Daniels established an apprenticeship program, based on the Circle Rep model. Apprentices learn to act, but also serve in rotations that include stage building, lighting and sound design, box office, and administration. "It's not easy work," Daniels concedes, "but when they're done, they'll know what they need to do to become an actor, director, stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, or set designer in New York."

As the theater took root, Daniels juggled its needs with his acting career. "Mentally I had the drive and ambition to do everything here, but physically I knew I couldn't plan to act or direct when my movie career was still on the upswing," he says. "Movies took precedence; everything else stopped for them. But I learned I could write music and plays anywhere, and when I was in town I could raise money for the Purple Rose."

When Daniels headed to New York, he he had a feeling he'd be alone a lot, so he bought a \$400 guitar. "I'd never played before in my life," he says. "The guitar has given me sanity in between phone calls—and several years ago, I could go months at a time between phone calls. That's the dark hole every actor falls into. We finish a movie and don't know what's next."

Playwright Lanford Wilson nudged him into his musical career in 1978, when he suggested Daniels write music to the poem "Road Signs." Years later, when Wilson came to the Purple Rose opening

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night, he asked Daniels' friends if he had ever played "Road Signs" for them.

"Jeff doesn't play the guitar," one friend said.

"You have to share this," Wilson told his protégé.

That night Daniels strummed a guitar in public for the first time.

The PRTC Board of Directors asked him to play for a fundraiser. "It was 2002, and I was so tired of raising money the conventional way, so I agreed," Daniels says.

For months, he practiced daily, with mounting panic. "There was no character for me to play—actors hide behind the filter of the character," he says. "Finally, the third year, I discovered how to eliminate panic: create a character to hide behind."

Nowadays, he not only plays for theater fundraisers, but tours the country with his son Ben's band. And for the last dozen years, his "Onstage & Unplugged" fundraising concerts have been a holiday-season tradition.

**W**hen the doors closed on the last performance of George F. Walker's *Criminal Genius* in August 1999, the original Garage Theatre was demolished and construction began on the present theater, at a cost of \$2.3 million. While Daniels, development director Judy Gallagher, and the board of directors worked at fundraising, Guy Sanville kept the theater company alive, presenting plays at Detroit's Gem Theatre.

Lanford Wilson's *Rain Dance* heralded the new theater's opening on January 11, 2001. Patrons filled the 168 seats. The expansion "raised the stakes here," Sanville says. "We got 40 percent bigger, so we needed to sell 40 percent more tickets to 40 percent more people ... Every decision had more weight."

To date, the Purple Rose has staged ninety-seven plays, including sixty world premieres, nineteen Midwest premieres, and sixteen of Daniels' plays. Occasionally an American classic will be performed—"but only if we can give it an entirely new slant," Sanville says. He's doing that himself in the PRT's current show, playing Oscar in *The Odd Couple* (see Events, February 3).

"You have to connect with the crowd," Daniels says. "You have to keep them engaged so they don't feel like, 'Man, that was two hours I'll never get back!'"

As the theater grew, so did Daniels' career. He cites four films and one play that define his work: Civil War hero Joshua Chamberlain in *Gettysburg*, dimwitted Harry Dunne in *Dumb and Dumber*, a self-consumed professor in *The Squid and the Whale*, a quirky single father in *Fly Away Home*, and *Johnny Got His Gun*, a Circle Rep performance in which all the action takes place inside a man's mind. "I sat in a cage and acted out a script that consisted of ninety pages' worth of this guy's thoughts," Daniels says. "The *New York Times* reviewer wrote, 'It does not engage our emotions,' and it closed after three weeks." He adds, "But it won an Obie because the *Village Voice* saw it and liked it."

Daniels is good at keeping both viewers and reviewers happy. Among his hon-

ors are the Emmy for his role in Aaron Sorkin's television series *The Newsroom*; a Tony nomination for the Broadway production of *God of Carnage*; and four Golden Globe Award nominations, including one for *The Purple Rose of Cairo*.

**O**n the eve of the theater's twenty-fifth anniversary, the board announced a \$5 million capital campaign and plans for another expansion. "We're in the process of acquiring part of the empty lot next to us from the city, so we can expand our lobby and add on a rehearsal center, classrooms, a larger shop, and some offices," explains managing director Katie Doral. The theater's full-time staff has grown to ten—a far cry from the days when Daniels' mother-in-law, Daphne Hodder, took board notes, answered phone calls, and issued tickets ("written by hand").

Today, "The Purple Rose is a huge source of community pride," Chelsea mayor Jason Lindauer says. "Forty thousand people visit our town each year, drawn by the theater," 80 percent of them from outside Washtenaw County. "Each of them spends, on average, between \$60 and \$70 here, not including theater tickets. The theater is an economic force that grows every year."

Twenty-five years ago, Craig Common was convinced to open the Common Grill after conversations with Daniels and his father, Bob, a community leader and businessman, who wanted a restaurant for Purple Rose playgoers. The Chelsea House Inn has a close relationship with theatergoers and offers temporary housing for actors and directors. Theater professionals devote a total of 15,000 hours a year to teaching acting, directing, stage managing, and playwriting. More than 2,500 teens and adults have enrolled in classes since 1991, and 500 actors have performed on the Purple Rose stage.

Jeff Daniels was in two movies last year (*Steve Jobs* and Ridley Scott's *The Martian*), toured with his son Ben's band, and launched the Purple Rose's fall season with his sixteenth play, *Casting Session*. In March he'll open on Broadway in *Blackbird*, co-starring with Michelle Williams. "Twenty-five years ago, I never would have guessed that my career and this theater would be at this stage when I turned sixty," he says. "I'm very, very grateful."

Throughout his career, Daniels says he has followed Marshall Mason's original advice: *You know what you should do with your life.* "And it helps if you pick up people along the way who believe in you," he adds. "I was lucky enough to have [teacher] DiAnn L'Roy, [Terms of Endearment director] Jim Brooks, Marshall Mason, Lanford Wilson, Woody Allen, [manager] Paul Martinez, my parents, and my wife in my circle. When the journey gets rough and these people say, 'Stay,' you listen to them."

"In turn, you pass it on. That has become part of the mission of the Purple Rose. We gather talented people we enjoy working with, people who can act, direct, manage, teach, support, encourage, and correct. Together, we create art." ■

*This article was originally published in the Winter 2015 Community Observer.*



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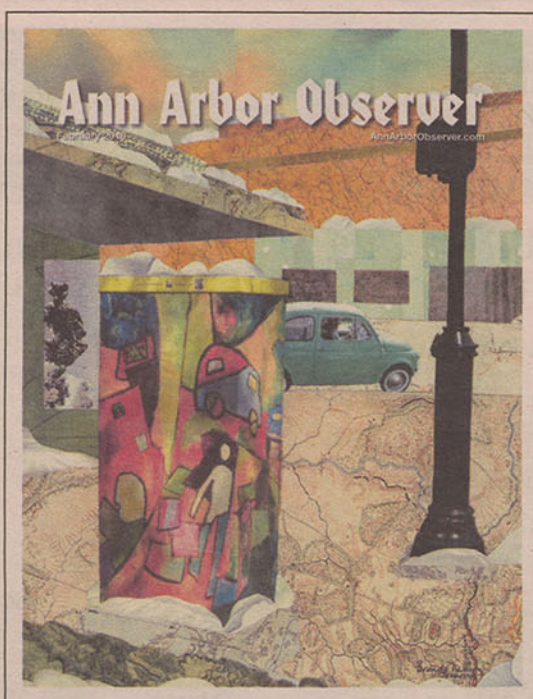
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# A2 Fix It



## The city's new complaint system tackles the Arborview Stench.

by James Leonard

**"T**he smell started five, maybe ten years ago," says Sally Mitani, who's lived on Arborview on the west side since 2000. "It smells from May to October but concentrates in hot, humid months ... on Maple Ridge and Arborview. For years I've been meaning to call the city."

Last August the stench got so bad that Mitani, who writes the Observer's Marketplace Changes column, finally did contact the city—but not by phone or email. She tried A2 Fix It, a new online service where folks can tell the city about stuff that needs fixing.

A2 Fix It is available as a mobile app, but Mitani used the "report a problem" link on A2gov.org. She found an existing thread on the stench, and posted "the smell is very bad today."

She got an automated response that began, "Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. City staff investigated and resolved the problem."

Mitani was flummoxed. "The city said it was fixed, but the city has been saying that for years."

This time, though, something really had happened. In early October Fifth Ward city council rep Chuck Warpehoski posted a message on A2 Fix It from then city administrator Steve Powers:

"The odor is suspected to be from hydrogen sulfide venting out of the manholes along a sewer line owned by Scio Township," Powers wrote. The township had pledged to install odor filters on the manholes within a month and "has been instructed to have long-term improvement in place" by May 1 of this year.

Warpehoski emails: "I posted on A2 Fix It to make sure that the folks who have reported the problem were kept up-to-date on the efforts to solve it."

Have the newly installed filters worked? "Nobody will know until next summer," says Mitani. "But I'm an optimist."

**A**2 Fix It came online in July 2014. It was "developed out of a desperate need to replace the constituent request system we had," says Robert Kellar, communications specialist for the city's public works area. "It started breaking down in late 2012, and, when I joined the staff in July 2013, it was down for days at a time." He says he's Fix It's "biggest proponent. I have a dashboard that's up on my computer every day all day. I see almost every request that comes in."

Sitting with Kellar in a City Hall conference room is field operations manager Molly Maciejewski. "My guys are the ones who are fixing the potholes," she explains. "When you enter the problem, it automatically goes into our maintenance management system, Cityworks, that generates the request to the appropriate person to address the problem." About 45 percent of the problems reported to the city now

maintenance requests before A2 Fix It went online, Kellar says, and it's only gotten bigger since. "Council approved more resources [in the city's new forestry plan], but we're still talking years" to get to them all.

He says the city can't do much about broken streetlights, because the vast majority belong to DTE. "All we can do is call in the problem, get the reference number, and post it on the website. We'll keep the issue open until DTE tells us the light is fixed. And this has created quite a problem, because DTE is not really good about following up on their streetlight repairs."

Other problems get resolved more quickly. "Our goal is to try to fix potholes within the next business day. For the most part it's going pretty good, but if we get a whole bunch of pothole requests we try to group them by area, so it might take another day."

be far less frequent. But we'll never turn off the phones and emails. There're too many complicated issues."

Warpehoski emails that overall the public response to the new system has been positive. "Routine fixes like potholes that need to be filled, sidewalk issues, etc. get fixed quickly. For example, the 'no left turn' sign on Broadway facing Wall Street had been completely covered over by a nearby tree. I posted it to the app, and a few weeks later it was fixed. I've heard reports about people posting potholes in the morning and seeing them patched by the afternoon."

"Where we struggle is to do a good job responding to things that are not routine maintenance. The Arborview sewer odor is a good example. Non-routine issues, especially ones that are the responsibility of other entities, don't work as well with the system. There has been some frustration when staff closes tickets because we've handed them off to other entities—but the other entities have not solved the problem."

That's why Mitani was misinformed that the stench had been resolved. "Some employees didn't realize they were supposed to leave it open and closed it, and that response [she received] auto-generates," Maciejewski explains.

But there actually has been progress on solving the stench. "We sat down with Scio at the end of September, [and] they came up with their plan," Maciejewski says. "That's why that response came subsequent to that meeting."

"The residents are 100 percent correct," says Scott Martin, head of Scio Township's utilities department. "There's been a historic odor problem, but the smells have been really bad there this summer."

Scio pays the city to dispose of its sewage—and the two systems meet at Arborview and Maple Ridge. "When they become anaerobic, hydrogen sulfide molecules stink," Martin explains. "They are also very corrosive to concrete pipe, and we had to do major repairs on our system. We lined pipe with fabric that runs right down to Ann Arbor"—shipping their problem to the Arborview neighborhood.

Scio now has twenty filters in the neighborhood's manholes and is consulting engineers about a long-term solution to implement this spring. "It is a solvable problem," says Martin. "We just have to make sure we do it right the first time." The price for the fix will be paid by Scio.

Does that mean the summer of 2015 was the last gasp of the Arborview stench? The optimistic Mitani hopes so. "City government works well in Ann Arbor. Compare it to DTE or Comcast!" ■



The city's Robert Kellar (left) monitors complaints—including Sally Mitani's post about the foul smell at the corner of Arborview and Maple Ridge. Councilmember Chuck Warpehoski filled in the rest of the story.

come through A2 Fix It. Kellar says that since it went online, it's taken 7,075 complaints, and closed 6,160 of them.

The most common involve streetlights, potholes, and trees. "In the winter you get more snow issues, the fall you get a lot more streetlights, the summer and spring it's potholes all the time," Kellar says.

Most of the 915 unresolved complaints involve trees and streetlights. There was already a backlog of forestry

**K**ellar says the system saves the city time and money. "It's basically a buck thirty-five less than if we were doing it by a phone call," he says, because phone and email complaints have to be entered into the Cityworks system by hand.

"The next step is reaching more possible users," says Kellar. "The only way to improve is to get the word out. I could see a day when phone calls and emails would



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# Restaurant Reviews

## Yee Siang Dumplings

### Simplification

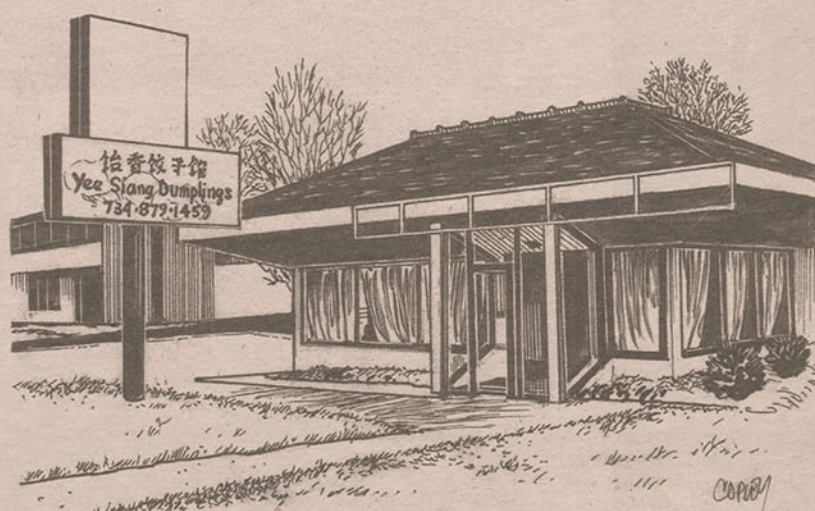
When reviewing a Chinese restaurant, I'm usually baffled about where to start. Most menus are so vast it's almost impossible to test a representative sample. Moreover, everyone has his or her favorite dishes, personal benchmarks for judging all Chinese restaurants. But what if my usual suspects are not the reader's? Who cares how good the scalion pancakes are if you eat only sweet and sour pork? What if Chinese means egg foo young for you and Peking duck for me? And when will I finally be able to sort out what it really means for a dish to be Hunan or Cantonese or Szechuan or ... Liaoning?

When it opened last summer, Yee Siang Dumplings promised to simplify things. Sally Mitani's Marketplace Changes article reported that owners Weiguo Tie and Hua Bai were going to start out concentrating on the cooking of Liaoning, their native northern province. Moreover, the restaurant's name highlights its specialty.

By the time I got there after the New Year, the menu had grown to include many standards of the storefront Chinese restaurant—General Tsou's chicken, pepper steak, kung pao shrimp. Still, the emphases remained fairly clear, particularly when I observed what the Chinese patrons consistently ordered.

Following their lead, we skipped the egg roll to try the marinated duck appetizer, a chewy but savory glazed half bird hacked into pieces and served cold. Silk tofu with preserved egg featured soft, pillowy curds, served cold and garnished with chopped peanuts, chiles, scallions, and a preserved duck egg; it turned out to be more about contrasting and complementary textures than alluring flavors, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Shredded sesame-chile chicken, an impressive pile of unadorned meat, was also less than thrilling in the flavor department and was again presented cool. Spicy beef and tripe were gelatinous, pressed slices of meat and offal, tossed in seasonings flecked with dried chili flakes. Finally, we tried the garlic green beans, stir-fried, then chilled—are cold appetizers a thing



in Liaoning?—and plated with a galaxy of chopped garlic.

Yee Siang's signature dumplings, coming in batches of ten or eighteen small purses, can function as an appetizer or an entrée. There are ten possible fillings, and we tried five.

I'll confess that, although I usually adore dumplings, and I saw plate after plate of them go out at Yee Siang, I didn't find any of their fillings very memorable until we finally hit upon the pork triple delight (pork, chicken, and shrimp), which indeed delighted us. Also, I preferred them pan-fried—boiled or steamed are the alternatives—to add a bit of texture to the otherwise squishy pouches. (If you order dumplings for takeout, be forewarned that they may stuff the batch into a pint box, resulting in one large gluey mass.)

Of more interest—at least to me—was the “snack” of a pork “burger,” braised pork belly stuffed into a split baked bun—a gloriously messy and delicious sandwich easily divided into four appetizer tastes. Other snacks we tried included kebabs—chicken or lamb, slathered with a sticky glaze heavy with dried chili flakes—and the *ma-la* bowl, a make-your-own-dish that can be as small or as big as you'd like. Choose as many protein and vegetable options as you want, and they'll stir-fry them together into a spicy, dark mélange. Our bowl—a mix of flounder, fish tofu (fish-flavored firm tofu), Napa cabbage, king oyster mushrooms, and sweet potatoes—tasted healthy and fresh, if not all that exciting (except for that intriguing tofu).

We did find some exciting noodle dishes. Glazed with chile oil, vinegar, and soy sauce and topped with crunchy bean sprouts, the sticky wide rice noodles were appealingly zesty. And the spicy beef noodle soup was fabulous—a deep,

savory broth accented with star anise, succulent bits of meat, and thin, tender, delicious, fresh wheat noodles. (None of the spicy entrées packed that great a wallop.) This is a dish to eat in house; those wonderful noodles will grow soggy and dull during the trip home. Ditto for the lamb rib soup, where the wheat noodles were wide and flat, the broth gamey from the

lamb, and the scraps of bone encased in tender meat.

We also dipped into the list of entrées. Though it featured an incredible variety and quantity of fungi, we judged the mushroom vermicelli stew a trifle bland; stirring in a few sautéed green beans added interest. Hand-ripped cabbage stir-fry utilized the tough outer leaves of the round white variety, lending plenty of spicy fiber to the day's diet. (Leftovers cooked long enough to soften the vegetable were just fine.) We licked clean the heads of the salt-and-pepper shrimp and devoured the bodies, shell and all. And the pork belly with preserved vegetables was sumptuous, the lush, fatty meat seductively melting, along with the pickles and strands of fresh Napa cabbage, into the rich, silky sauce.

This is a family-run business, with all the quirks that can imply: odd menu translations and frequent food outages, friendly servers and slapdash service when customers pile in, and food coming out of the kitchen as it's ready, meaning the appetizer might be the last dish you see.

But this family is clearly serving what they know, and despite the above quibbles, much of it is excellent, no matter what Chinese dish you hold most dear. Maybe we'll all see the horizons expand, discover new favorites, and eat some really great food, even if we're still puzzling over where exactly in China it comes from.

—Lee Lawrence

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## Restaurant Reviews



### VKitchen

*Sprinting freshly into town*

My first memory of Vietnamese food has a dateline of Paris in the 1980s. Narrow stereotypes about what was tasty in Europe's cities had been crumbling, all for the best. Nothing could have tasted fresher than that first herb-salad-packed Vietnamese rice noodle wrap from a streetside stand after a week of cheesy *croque-monsieur* sandwiches and creamy sauces in French cafés.

Early in this gray Michigan winter, I was pleased to find equally fresh Vietnamese spring rolls at VKitchen, in the semi-circular Colonnade strip mall on Eisenhower near Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Settling into the bright dining room, I was handed a multipage menu—and there in front was a tantalizing photo of perky pink shrimp pressed with a translucent rice noodle wrap into a green filling of lemongrass, lettuce, and herbs like mint, basil, and cilantro. I ordered that cheerful *gỏi cuốn* up quick. Though the double fresh spring roll appetizer came with more light rice vermicelli noodles than are often included elsewhere, a crunchy peanut sauce was a welcome complement.

The good start continued with fried egg rolls: a colorful variety of shredded veggies, ground pork, and full flavor in a crispy wheat flour wrapper. The fine execution of the egg rolls and the crab Rangoon—light on grease—foreshadowed a promising meal ahead.

Pages upon pages of menu entrées are divided by type, like pho soups, curries, noodles, and *bánh mì* baguette sandwiches, the latter served with a default spread of chicken pâté and mayo along

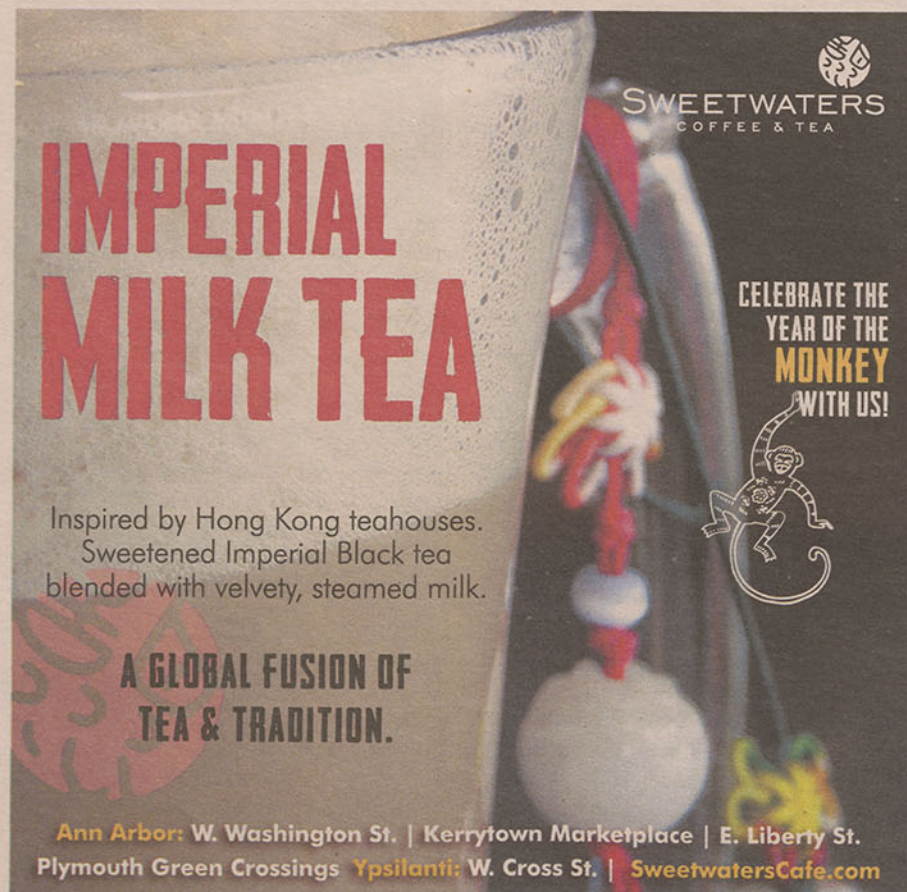
with choices of meats and pickled veggies. All the entrees I tasted ranged from good to great, topping out with the hearty, meaty “special dishes” like *bò lúc lắc*, “shaking beef.” The name refers to the preparation, in which small cubes of spiced, soy-marinated meat are shaken while searing in a wok. The result is a compelling layer of caramelized crust on the slightly smoky-sweet beef, onions, and peppers. It's served over rice, with brown rice \$1.50 extra, but the dish itself seems a bargain at \$15—and that's more than anything else on the menu except seafood combos.

The vermicelli combo bowl is just the kind of refreshing vinegar-sugar-salt-veggie-meat amalgam that makes Vietnamese cuisine so addictive: grilled shrimp and pork balanced perfectly with fresh salad veggies and pickled carrot and daikon, with a sliced egg roll atop. It's served at room temperature, letting the flavors blossom and provide a complex dressing for the underlying noodles.

The aromatic chicken curry is an excellent sum of simple parts, mainly tender bone-chopped thigh meat and big chunks of potato adrift in a slightly sweet yellow-curry coconut milk. There's a stew-like aura to the huge bowl, and you will probably want to opt for the baguette when choosing among the starch accompaniments, because neither rice nor noodles go as well with the potatoes and curry sauce.

Among several pho options, I tried only the chicken. The menu said it was made with beef broth, but I didn't expect the beefiness to be so overpowering. The dish of accompaniments, while tasting fresh and fine, was not as neatly laid out as I've seen elsewhere.

Service, too, can get slapdash when the dining room is crowded, to the point where it can distract from the good food. We had to ask twice before a spoon was brought for the pho, and our table of five's drinks arrived nearly fifteen minutes apart. But then, the drinks are creative, non-alcoholic concoctions that probably benefit from being made to order and served right away. You get the sense strawberries and plums were macerated right before being poured over ice in a tall glass with ginger ale and sea salt. Soaked basil seeds swam like bubble-tea tadpoles and gave nutty texture to a drink of *malva* nut and grass jelly. A thick straw also is necessary for the pulpy sweet soursop. And Vietnamese coffee arrives picture perfect, dripping via a quaint metal percolator lid into a glass tumbler with a thick band of condensed milk at the bottom. If you're going to order dessert—



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and the banana-coconut-peanut ice cream is a good reason to do so—it would make a superb accompaniment.


In addition to improving on the friendly but disjointed service, VKitchen needs to bring the elegance of the cuisine and dining room to the dark back hallway where the restrooms are—and where a lack of tidiness is off-putting. With a back-of-the-house cleanup and a few more people on hand to help serve the delicious food, VKitchen will be a strip-mall gem.

—M.B. Lewis

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## quick bite



We ate a lot of black beans and eggs and fried chicken the month we spent riding buses around Guatemala—enough, actually, that we grew tired of those otherwise tasty staples. It was the rainy season, and alternatives in the muddy mountain villages were often nonexistent. Sometimes we could find *atole*—a steaming corn masa drink, flavored with dark brown sugar and cinnamon, thick as porridge—to nourish us during the cold, wet mornings, but we often felt desperate for something fresh and light. Gradually we learned to keep a sharp eye out for tattered tarps, usually strung up in a sheltered corner along a sodden path between buildings, where a woman would be selling crisp corn tostadas, topped with a neon-bright tangle of carrot, beet, and cabbage slaw and swirls of *crema* and hot sauce. They were messy as hell to eat, the tortillas shattering as we bit into them, the salad and sauces dripping through our fingers as the rain washed down our faces, but they were absolutely delicious.

“Well, it’s almost as messy here!” my husband exclaimed indignantly as he looked around urgently for extra napkins to mop his face and shirt. We were eating lunch at **Antonio’s Coney Island** on Washtenaw between Golfside and Hewitt. He was trying, with only limited success, to eat his enchiladas *catrachas* with some grace, but these Honduran tostadas, topped with braised ground beef, a cabbage-carrot-beet salad, and hard-boiled egg and avocado slices didn’t yield well to fork or to hand.

Although the restaurant has an extensive standard Coney Island-style menu, the list of interest is that of the *platillos especiales*, a group of Central American specialties put together by owners Irene Serrano and Miguel Martinez (the chef). That fried chicken we ate in Guatemala is on it, along with *tajadas*, fried green plantain slices. The *plato típico* features a fried egg with black beans, here aug-

mented with a choice of meat. Tacos *de pollo* are excellent—corn tortillas wrapped into thick cylinders filled with seasoned chicken, then deep-fried and finished with more of that tri-colored slaw, hot sauce, and grated cheese.

A *churrasquito* is much like a well-stuffed Mexican steak taco, a *baleada* a bean quesadilla, best augmented with the optional scrambled egg and avocado. For something more exotic, try the wonderful *plátano frito relleno*—a whole ripe plantain, fried and then slit open, stuffed with refried beans, and topped with cheese and crema; it’s big enough to share as a side or to eat alone as a vegetarian entrée. The *yuca con chicharrón* is a surprisingly addictive combo of steamed, fried yucca chunks, cabbage salad, homemade pork rinds, and spicy pickles, bound together by a mayonnaise-based sauce. (Brought home for lunch one afternoon, it was a dish several people who had probably never had pork rinds or yucca, much less in combination, enjoyed with great relish.)

The best day to go to Antonio’s is Sunday, especially now, during the winter months. Sometimes *atole* is on the chalkboard, or better, *champurrado*—*atole* with chocolate blended in. Sunday is also when *caldo de mariscos* is available, a seafood stew chock full of its namesake—including crab—in a rich, warming coconut milk broth. *Caldo de res* is a beef soup with a deep savory broth, succulent meat, and hearty vegetables. Both come in small and large sizes, though I can’t imagine anyone but a linebacker eating the *plato grande*.


Like the enchiladas, both are messy to eat; a crab leg in its shell looms out of the seafood stew, and a corn cob and large, unwieldy chunks of beef bob in the soup. But both are absolutely delicious, and, like much good food, worth the dribble down the chin, the stained shirt, and the sloppy fingers.

—L.L.

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### CHEF'S TABLE

by Harriet Seaver

Wow, this month marks the 30th year we’ve had the privilege of being in the business known as Tios.

Things have changed, and things have stayed the same. We’ve gone from one little hole-in-the-wall joint to three (Huron St., Washtenaw Ave., and Stone School Rd.) locations and now back to one. Albeit this current iteration is a far cry from the original in looks and menu, we’ve remained the same: family-run and community-centric.

Daily, as we unlock the back doors to start pots of pinto beans boiling, and weekly as we meet around our dining room table as management and family, we reminisce, laugh, threaten, plan and wonder about these last 30 years as the Tios family. It’s been a heck of a journey. Countless lives have touched ours. We’ve met, helped and been helped by some of the most amazing people. We’ve grown and changed with Ann Arbor, in most ways for the better, we hope.

With a second generation of Seavers at the helm (but don’t count us old geezers out entirely yet), we anticipate at least another 30 years.

### BAKER'S CORNER

by Jessie Seaver

Things that get better with age: Tios and cast iron skillets

Being in business for 30 years means we have seen a lot of things come and go, but one thing that has stood the test of time is our cast iron skillet. If properly maintained, cast iron can last generations and is known to improve with age.

To clean cast iron always hand-wash with mild soap and a soft sponge – do not use anything abrasive. Thoroughly dry immediately to avoid rust, and rub with a light coat of vegetable oil. The oil protects from moisture and helps season the iron.

We have always used cast iron skillets to bake our cornbread (even heat is key), but we’ve now added a tamale pot pie to our menu – prepared and served in mini cast iron skillets. We bake individual size cornbreads to



act as the crust. The sauce is a rich blend of fire-roasted Anaheim peppers and tomatillos, and tender marinated pork loin rounds out the filling. Each individual ingredient is good enough to stand alone, but getting a little bit of each creates the perfect bite.

Tios and I share the same birthday month. The window sign saying “It’s a girl” in 1986 was me. I hope you’ll come celebrate with us!

### FATHER TEQUILA

by Jeremy Seaver

Two ways to look at turning 30: “If by 30, you mean more awesome, then, yes, I turned 30”; or “I’m 30, but I still feel like I’m 20. Until I hang out with 20-year-olds and then realize that, nope, I’m 30.” One of those described turning 30, and the other is more Tios. I’ll give you a hint, I hate hanging out with 20-year-olds. To help celebrate Tios’ 30th anniversary, we have introduced some exciting new menu items. They are all great, but my personal favorite is the Mole Enchiladas. Mole is a complex dish, usually a recipe that is handed down through family, and no two are completely the same. Honestly, I was a little apprehensive about putting a mole on the menu out of respect for the traditions behind it. I can tell you Harriet worked some serious magic on this dish. It balances the bitterness of Mexican chocolate with the slight spiciness of the chiles without muddying the flavors despite the number of ingredients. We are very proud of how it turned out. I wanted to highlight it by recommending a tequila that would pair well with it. Herradura Anejo is my choice. Spicy up front, it has notes of dark chocolate and cherry on the finish.



### HOT HEAD MONTHLY

by Tim Seaver

30 years!!! I’ve tasted an awful lot of terrible hot sauce over that period of time. Think of all the taste buds I’ve sacrificed for all of you Hot Heads just so you don’t have to suffer trying to find a decent sauce!

It’s been great fun and a wonderful education. The many people I’ve met in the business and as customers are a true pleasure. Thanks for 30 years of memories, and here’s hoping for 30 more.

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# Marketplace Changes

by Sally Mitani

## More Treats for Northside Foodies

*At a new Plum Market and a renovated Busch's*

If there's a kind of retail that is in no danger of disappearing here, it's the grocery store, especially the upscale one. Matt and Marc Jonna opened their second Ann Arbor Plum Market on Plymouth Rd. in November, and not only does it bookend an eight-year boom in Ann Arbor's grocery store scene, it's a full circle for the Jonna brothers. In 1992, their parents, Ed and Juliette, opened the Merchant of Vino Warehouse just down the road in the Plymouth Mall. (Way 1 Supermarket is there now.)

Though specialty markets selling fancy foodstuffs had long dotted the local landscape (Zingerman's, anyone?, and before that Big Ten Party Store), the upscale supermarket with multiple checkout lanes was a new phenomenon. "At first people thought it was a trend," says Marc Jonna, "but it seems to have become permanent." The Jonnas are doing their part: after selling the Merchant of Vino to Whole Foods in 1998, they launched Plum Market in 2007.

When the Maple Village Plum opened that year, both brothers were on hand. Now, with five stores (including one in Chicago), a small market at Detroit Metro Airport, and a large catering service, it took a conference call to set up a chat with one of them, overseen by Todd Belden, Plum's marketing coordinator. Marc Jonna was pleasant and talkative, but not remotely tempted to take the bait when asked to comment on any of the competition. "We look at what our guests—our clients—are looking for, not at what everyone else is doing ... Competition creates education, and it's good for everybody."

Since the Maple Village Plum opened, a second Whole Foods, Aldi, Costco, Lucky's Market, an enlarged Arbor Farms, and even a GFS west-side edition have added to the tangle of local grocery options, but Jonna says, "People kept saying, 'Can you come back to your original side of town?' It's been really tough to get the right real estate, but when we got the opportunity [the former Cleary University building] just seconds away from our first store" in Plymouth Mall, they jumped on it.

Foodies are always demanding new thrills, and the latest one seems to involve craft beer. This Plum has a craft beer bottling station. It also has a Class C liquor license, which allows them to sell tickets to wine and beer tastings, overseen by sommelier Madeline Triffon. Belden emails a reminder that Triffon, a U-M grad, was only the second woman in the world to pass the Court of Master Sommeliers exam. Snagging her in 2011 was a coup for Plum.

"Everyone is always asking for what's



Marc Jonna helped his parents open a store in Plymouth Mall more than twenty years ago. Sold to Whole Foods, it closed in 2003—but now Marc and his brother Matt are back on the north side with their newest Plum Market.

the next trend," Jonna says. If he knows, he's not saying—but when it appears, Plum will surely be on it. As Jonna says, "innovation is one of our guiding principles."

And as for some competition closer to home, how about that big, renovated Busch's across the street? "They're a good company," says Jonna. "Once again, we think we're uniquely different."

Plum Market, 3601 Plymouth Rd., 545-7250. Daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m. [plummarket.com](http://plummarket.com)

John Busch and director of marketing John Hunter were perhaps a little more candid than Jonna as they led a walk-through tour of the newly renovated Busch's Fresh Food Market. "We're a full-service grocery store, and we're the upper end of what-ever town we're in," says Busch, though "upper end means something different in Clinton than in Ann Arbor. This area is so educated, people travel so much, and people eat much more diversely."

"When I grew up," he laughs, surveying the expanded prepared foods section, "it was a meat-and-potatoes life. I was in my mid-twenties when I learned that there was a kind of Parmesan cheese that didn't come in a green can."

The company offers full-service shopping, but in a smallish, friendly space. "This one is about 37,000 square feet. I think Kroger over there"—he gestures toward Traver Village—"is over 80,000. It works for them, but it's too overwhelming" for a lot of people.

Busch claims this renovation had nothing to do with Plum—it was just part of the periodic upkeep of the fifteen Busch's stores that operate in southeastern Michigan. They closed in some space in front to provide sunny seating and Wi-Fi where customers can enjoy prepared foods and drinks. And the food aisles were gussied up: with wood endcaps and shelf dividers, the interior now looks like a food library.

*Like the Jonna brothers, John Busch also learned the grocery business from his parents and works with siblings.*

Like the Jonna brothers, John Busch learned the grocery business from his parents and works with siblings. Joseph Busch's first venture was Country Market in Clinton, opened after his service in World War II. That expanded into a small chain that he sold to a larger chain; when that chain went belly up, he and partner Charlie Mattis bought back the stores in Clinton and Saline.

John bought out his father in the mid-1980s, and he and his brothers, Tim and Doug, started renewing and expanding. The first Ann Arbor store, on S. Main, opened in 1990. Plymouth-Green followed two years later.

Even wearing a suit and tie, Busch apparently has the demeanor of a caring local grocer. More than one stranger approached him as he strolled through his store, asking him why this or that had been moved or complimenting him on the upgrade. An employee told him he needed a toaster in the new café. "Good idea," he said, writing it down.

Busch's Fresh Food Market, 2020 Green Rd., 994-7200. Daily 7 a.m.-11 p.m. [buschs.com](http://buschs.com)

## Pointless Brewery and Theatre

*Cancer fast-tracked a young couple's bucket list.*

Pointless Brewery and Theatre didn't open last summer when Tori and Jason Tomalia originally announced it would. She has stage four lung cancer, and they have three young children (Zander, seven, and twins Autumn and Mikaela, four). Opening a new brewpub or a comedy improv club would tax any young couple in those circumstances, and they were combining both ventures into

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## Marketplace Changes

something for which there is no template. "Our model doesn't exist. We're the first brewery and improv theater in the country!" much less the state, says Jason, sitting down one night after the Friday night improv show (see Events, February 5).

The name Pointless, in fact, might suggest to some that they didn't really expect to succeed at all—but, except for being slightly late, the project has been remarkably goal oriented. In late December, after they raised a few grand in excess of their \$50,000 Kickstarter request, Pointless arrived pretty much as their original business plan outlined it, which Jason largely attributes to Tori: "She's focused, organized, always searching for best practices."

Jason, who began hobby brewing in 2008, brews the beer. Though a stout and porter lover himself, he's starting with lighter ales that will be friendlier to people used to mass-produced American-style beers.

The brewpub license allows them to sell packaged snacks and soft drinks. Comedy improv shows run Friday and Saturday nights, and Jason is part of the house troupe. On Saturday mornings, Tori uses the space for her Little Peeps children's comedy group. Sundays they host an open talent night. They'll be gradually branching out with more events, longer hours, and more kinds of beer.

The story of the young mother of three learning she had stage-four lung cancer, a diagnosis that was slow in coming, not only because of her age, but because she has never smoked, is shocking and heart-rending. But the Tomalias handle it—in the media anyway—matter-of-factly and forthrightly. Asked if he and Tori are getting tired of talking about cancer, Jason says no, not at all. "She's an advocate for getting the word out—there seems to have been an increase in lung cancer in young, nonsmoking women." (Tori was home with the kids and didn't participate in the interview.)

Jason is thirty-nine, but so wiry and energetic that he could pass for a college gymnast. Coming from his mouth, "pointless" doesn't sound all that bleak. He laughs and explains that if you start thinking any one thing is pointless, the whole world becomes pointless, so that became a watchword in their household. "Also," he says, "so often studying theater, we'd get hit with 'What are you going to do with that? That seems pointless.'"

Originally from Owosso, he studied theater at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and met Tori in the Twin Cities while doing improv at the Brave New Workshop. She grew up in nearby Rochester, where her father is a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic, and was studying theater. They moved here about seven years ago and "got jobs at a company doing media research," but weren't feeling very engaged with it. They'd been thinking of this brewpub-improv idea as something in the future, but her diagnosis, instead of killing the dream, just put their bucket list on fast forward.

Tori is getting immunotherapy, which



Tori and Jason Tomalia were working without a template: "We're the first brewery and improv theater in the country!" Jason says.

seems to be working. The family is doing fine, Jason says. Tori generally stays home at night and puts the kids to bed, and "I'm the one who gets up in the morning and gets them off to school because she needs to rest. But the kids see her working and doing stuff. We're very open with them. They know when scans are happening. We've told them that mommy is sick with something that could kill her."

Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard, no phone. Fri. 7–11 p.m., Sat. 7 p.m.–1 a.m., Sun. 6–10 p.m. Tasting room hours coming in Feb. [pointlessimprov.com](http://pointlessimprov.com); [pointlessbrew.com](http://pointlessbrew.com)

## Fjallraven Opens on Main St.

*Dr. Rahmani scores  
another high-end brand.*

"Four or five years ago when I was looking for hiking equipment, I saw it on eBay and thought, 'Who makes this stuff that sells used for almost as much as brand-new?'" That was manager Matthew Landry's introduction to Fjallraven, the Swedish brand that just opened its own store on Main Street.

Fjallraven has been big on its own turf since the 1960s—"it's the largest clothing brand in Sweden," Landry says. But while backpacks and hardy outerwear have been sold in American stores for years, its profile has been fairly low. Now a small office outside of Boulder is scouting real estate to seed the country with more Fjallraven stores. They've opened in Seattle, Portland, Boston, and other northern cities synonymous with well-educated, progressive-minded pools of money.

Landlord Reza Rahmani has an eye for hip businesses that are about to blossom. Like Shinola, also a Rahmani tenant, Fjallraven gear is elegant, well designed, sustainable, and expensive, and the company has the deep pockets and international marketing machinery needed to play the long game.

Fjallraven occupies the ground floor of the 213 Main St. building that Rahmani bought last year, and once renovation is

complete will expand into the basement. Landry says the Detroit ophthalmologist "has been really great making sure the storefront looks good" and believes in the brand: "He's bought his whole family stuff."

It's three doors down from the Raven Club, but Fjallraven has nothing to do with the bird. The name means "arctic fox" and isn't that hard to pronounce if your vocabulary can take on "fjord." Occasionally Landry slips up and pronounces it the Swedish way, "f'yall-RAH-ven," but in the U.S. they've decided to use the more familiar "RAYven."

Landry, only twenty-five, is a Greenpeace-award-winning environmental activist who likes tailored menswear and who happens to wear it well—in slim-fitting pants, sweater, and Allen Edmond brogues, he looks like he'd be at home at a prep-school fundraiser. Fjallraven found him, via LinkedIn, managing a Brooks Brothers store in Detroit. "I wasn't looking for a job," he says, adding "I have a pretty strange background."

As a teenager in Indiana, Landry started the Michigan City Beyond Coal campaign—Indiana energy issues, he explains, are "one of the things my generation has to solve." When he was studying engineering at Purdue, "people began to say, 'Maybe you should try organizing. You're really good at this.' So I traveled around the country doing four or five other campaigns." But he also liked retail and along the way worked for Levi's and J.Crew and somehow "ended up on the management track at Brooks Brothers. I knew how to hire and fire, how to rent a space, get the



A former environmental organizer, manager Matthew Landry says Fjallraven's virtues include waterproofing with wax instead of fluorocarbons.



payroll system set up, all the back-end stuff."

Fjallraven is best known for its iconic Kanken backpack. Its boxy shape was ergonomically engineered years ago for Swedish schoolchildren to best distribute the weight of three or four books, and it was kept to a size that could not take on more weight than a small back could bear. They're sold in "about forty colors, with more coming in all the time," Landry says, for about \$75. Parkas are in the \$500 range.

Landry gently brings the conversation around to the harm much outdoor wear brings to the environment. A lot of rain gear is sprayed with fluorocarbons, which run off on the ground. Fjallraven has long been manufacturing outerwear that doesn't use fluorocarbons—instead, it is rainproofed the old-fashioned way, with paraffin and beeswax.

Fjallraven, 213 S. Main, 585-5628. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m. [fjallraven.us](http://fjallraven.us)

## Briefly Noted

"The problem, when you carry high-end merchandise, is people think you're bike snobs. But you should see what our employees ride in on," says Ron Schmid, general manager of **Fraser Bicycle**, which just opened an Ann Arbor shop on Packard. "Some of them ride Franken-bikes," scavenged from spare parts.

The business has been in the Detroit suburb of Fraser since 1967, where it was once "one of biggest Schwinn dealers in the Midwest," Schmid says, though it has long been out of the Schwinn business. Now they specialize in triathlon bikes, a weird-looking creation that Schmid calls "a job-specific tool, really only good for triathlons. It's all about aerodynamics," particularly important in triathlons because "you're not allowed to draft." The bikes look like they've been laid on their side and flattened by a steamroller.

Fraser gutted the space that used to be Two Wheel Tango. It's now one open room with a new glassed-in front. It also took over Two Wheel Tango's Specialized franchise. But Schmid insists that Fraser is itself the store's real brand—not Specialized or Quintana Roo or any other bike they carry. "This shop will serve everybody from a student that needs to get a bike back into working shape to a professional cyclist. We have cycling apparel for men and women, kids' bikes, helmets, shoes. We've got bikes for \$12,000 sitting around here, but I don't care what kind of bikes people have. We love the cycling lifestyle and love sharing it with others."

Fraser Bicycle, 3162 Packard, 389-7900. Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sun. [fraserbicycle.com](http://fraserbicycle.com)

"I'll throw some crazy stats at you. A person spends fourteen hours online shopping for a car now. They start looking at third-party sources like Auto.com. Ten years ago you'd go to a dealership. They'd give you a glossy brochure. I don't even

know if I have any brochures," says Jim Farkas, general manager of **Mini of Ann Arbor**, pointing vaguely to the showroom, where there must be some brochures somewhere. "Now customers already have answers. They want to confirm that we know what we're talking about."

Farkas is also the general manager of Germain Honda, across town. "This thing right here," he continues, holding up his cellphone, "totally changed how people shop. I don't even have an office at Mini. I use other people's offices." Today he has set up a small tablet on a vacant desk.

The Germain Automotive Group bought the local Mini dealership from Mack Johnson last summer. Johnson "wanted to spend time with his family. He's enjoying himself," says Farkas.

"Mini is a fun brand," Farkas says, but he's frank about the real reason Germain was interested: the dealership at Wagner and Jackson "is prime property." Germain is "trying to grow our used car side," and things are getting a little cramped over on S. State.

Farkas likes to think out of the box and is trying to staff Mini following an Apple mode with "Mini Geniuses," trained in sales, service, and product—kind of a utility player. It's an entry-level job, but we send them to classes in New Jersey to learn how to do this."

Mini of Ann Arbor, 3500 Jackson, (866) 707-1733. Mon. & Thurs. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sun. [miniofannarbor.com](http://miniofannarbor.com)

The Pittsfield Place development that fronts Meijer on Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. is finally complete with the opening of **Verizon**, **Bob Evans**, **Starbucks**, and **Texas Roadhouse**. The last is by far the most interesting addition. The steakhouse, whose red-and-yellow neon signage looms over Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., makes Outback's red-only neon, glowing from far back in the parking lot across the street at Village Centre, look positively discreet.

On a Thursday night in January, at 6 p.m., the Roadhouse, which opened in December, had a waiting list of thirty or forty (though because of its size and quick service, that meant only a ten-to-fifteen-minute wait, the host assured). If the parking lot weren't packed, you could have done a Texas two-step in its far reaches to the Randy Travis song blaring over outdoor speakers.

At least one family viewing the line at Roadhouse made an audible decision to go to Outback instead. Over in the Outback parking lot, things were pretty full too. It seems the decision to open a second steakhouse on this corner was an inspired one.

Texas Roadhouse, 3133 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (Pittsfield Place), 332-8850. Mon.-Thurs. 4-10 p.m., Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. [texasroadhouse.com](http://texasroadhouse.com)

Add **AutoZone** and **Advance Auto** to the auto supply shops multiplying on the west side at a rate that seems to stump even the employees. An employee at



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# The Zingerman's Times

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February 2016

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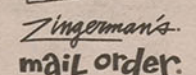
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## Local brides say "i do" to stress-free weddings

### Special Report: Delicious Dessert is a Piece of (Wedding) Cake!

According to area wedding planners, custom cakes and wedding favors taste as good as they look from Zingerman's Bakehouse. Set up an appointment to come sample and meet the designers! [www.zingermansbakehouse.com](http://www.zingermansbakehouse.com)

### From the Gossip Pages: Guests Fall in Love at Area Wedding

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### Rise in Nuptials Attributed to Easy Wedding Planning

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### appearing for one night only: chocolate and cheese!

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### zingerman's gelato announces cross country valentine tour

With Special Edition Chocolate Flavors Joining the Line-Up



The Times entertainment desk confirms the rumor that has gelato fans in a frenzy! Not only is Zingerman's gelato appearing in cities coast to coast this Valentine's Day, but the usual line-up is also featuring a variety of limited edition chocolate flavors, such as a Dark Chocolate, rated by the Detroit Metro Times as Best in Michigan; Rocky

Ride, featuring vanilla marshmallows handmade by Zingerman's Candy Manufactory, mixed with Virginia peanuts; Chocolate Heat, made with dark chocolate, cinnamon, ancho chile and just enough cayenne to make it dangerous; Chocolate Balsamic Strawberry; Turtle (with Argentinian dulce de leche); and Cherry Chocolate Chip Sorbet (dairy-free!) made with Traverse City cherries.

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## Marketplace Changes

AutoZone, who blanched at the idea of being identified by location, let alone name, said, "I wondered the same thing myself" when asked why AutoZone was building two stores so near each other. The Scio Township AutoZone on Jackson, now open, serves both commercial and DIY, so it seemed odd to him that the company would put another one a few miles away across the street from O'Reilly Auto Parts on W. Stadium. (Though the site was cleared last August, there's no sign of construction yet.)

Advance Auto is already open, in the onetime Ace Barnes Hardware at 2015 W. Stadium. "The location was chosen because of its convenience to commercial garages," emails corporate PR manager Ann Gurney. "It is also a popular area for car owners who enjoy working on cars. Advance Auto Parts new store locations are selected based on a number of factors, such as customer statistics, vehicle registration information and site research."

*Advance Auto Parts, 2015 W. Stadium Blvd., 585-2182. Mon.-Sat. 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. shop.advanceautoparts.com*

*AutoZone, 5740 Jackson Rd., 887-2597. Mon.-Sat. 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. autozone.com*

## In the Works

"A lot of changes are coming to the area, and leases aren't necessarily being renewed," says South University Area Association director Maggie Ladd. "Expect to see a little churn in the area while rebuilding is going on."

Examples of that churn: **Merit** closed last fall—David Merritt, whose clothing store raises money for Detroit kids, emails that he'll be opening a shop in Detroit this summer. A sign in the window announces the coming of **Fred's**, owned by Savco Hospitality—aka Sava Lelcay and Babo Market. (We were still playing phone tag with Fred at press time.) Then the **Village Apothecary** across the street, which had dwindled to a mere convenience store, closed over the holidays.

The larger picture has not yet emerged, says Jim Chaconas of Colliers International, who's working with developer Ron Hughes on the 1100 block of South U, which is largely owned by the Ulrich family trust. "For now, all the leases will be short-term," Chaconas confirms. "We're doing a lot of investigation to decide what's going to be there. We've got a lot of techno people looking for office space. There's already a lot of student housing there. It's a different retail scene there than State St."

In short, he says, expect to see different buildings, but they haven't even decided yet how big they'll be.

It's out with the old, in with the older, on the northwest corner of Main and Liberty. **Lena** and its underground bar **Habana**, popular for its Thursday salsa-dance nights, closed on January 17 to begin renovations in order to bring back the **Pretzel Bell**. A group of U-M alums missed the Bell so much, they wanted to re-create it, says Jon Carlson of Lena owner 2Mission Design and Development.

The first step was to paint the outside bricks. Lena's lime-green bricks alluded to the 1940s Cunningham drugstore that once stood on the spot. Over the holidays, the bricks got a coat of blue paint (not strictly M-blue but an easier-to-look-at slate blue), which will be the backdrop for maize Pretzel Bell signage, according to an artist's drawing Carlson sent along. The original

Bell opened in 1934 in the building that's now Mezzevino (where its original sign is hung behind the wait station).

The Pretzel Bell was owned for more than forty years by the Castor family.

After the announcement, the late Clint Castor Jr.'s children—Todd Castor, Shelley Castor, and Megan Uphoff—"were flooded with emails, texts and phone calls from family and friends asking if we knew about this," they wrote in an open letter. "Our collective answer was NO. We had no idea that somebody would take our family business and call it their own."

Because the trademarks had expired, they wrote, it seems that the new venture can legally be called the Pretzel Bell—but, they stress, "this new restaurant has no ties to the former restaurant and our family."

Carlson says Lena and Habana are not gone for good, but it may take some time to find them new homes—he'll need to find an existing restaurant space, "not convert any more retail space to restaurant." As for where salsa dancers will go: "I don't know! Hopefully whoever's doing it in the area is going to have a lot more business."

"Eight years ago I had my first craft beer in Traverse City. I didn't like it at first," says Brent Payeur. His brother Brad adds: "We started going on tours. We'd hit ten different breweries, started keeping a diary, then started touring facilities." The thirty-eight-year-old identical twins, whose family owns and operates Diamond Glass & Feiner's, are still in the glass business (which may be the oldest extant business in Ann Arbor, something they reasoned out when they discovered they predated Arnet's). Behind it, they've been gradually building a brewpub. In mid-January they guessed the **Glasshouse Brewery** would open "in about six weeks."

*Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com or leave voicemail at (734) 769-3175 x 309.*

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# Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at [AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com), but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.

## The Alley

2830 Baker Rd., Dexter 426-4707

This bar and grill (until recently known as Katie's Food & Spirits) features live music Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and occasional other nights. Also, DJ on Wed. 8-10 p.m. and karaoke on Tues. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Feb. 28: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalist Jim Paravantes. 6:30-9 p.m.

## The Arena

203 E. Washington 222-9999

This downtown sports bar features live music Mon. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** An eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals, by a jazz-tinged, jam-oriented trio led by local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. His latest CD, *Real*, a collection of songs drawing on blues, country, gospel, and roots rock, was recorded in L.A. with an all-star cast of session legends, including saxophonist Tom Scott, drummer Jim Keltner, and bassist Leland Sklar. With drummer Rob Avsharian and bassist Jordan Schug.

## The Ark

316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.-Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office ([mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)) and [theark.org](http://theark.org), and at the door. **Feb. 3 & 4: Ladysmith Black Mambazo.** Most Americans discovered Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Paul Simon's 1986 *Graceland* album, but this celebrated black South African male a cappella chorus has been around since 1958, when it was founded by lead tenor Joseph Shabalala as the Durban Choir. The group is the prime exponent of "isicathamiya," the indigenous music of rural black workers in South African cities. At once celebratory and mournful, this music fashions an exhilarating fusion of playful, antic craftiness and somber, haunting spirituality, and is accompanied with mesmerizing effect by equally intricate dance movements. \$45. **Feb. 5: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared at numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. Opening act is nationally renowned Saline-bred multi-instrumental string virtuoso Brad Phillips, a longtime member of the acclaimed local progressive Celtic band Millish who has performed with everyone from Stevie Wonder to Iggy Pop to Jeff Daniels. His repertoire is an eclectic mix of bluegrass, newgrass, Celtic, jazz, pop, and old-time music. \$11 at the door only. **Feb. 6: Yiddish Cup.** This acclaimed Cleveland-based klezmer band led by clarinetist (and U-M grad) Bert Stratton is known for its blend of ensemble virtuosity and wacky humor rooted in a 50s Borscht Belt ethos, with a repertoire ranging from traditional material to "Gentle on My Mind" and "Meshugenah Mambo," and its latest CD, *Klezmer Guy*, features the likes of "Yiddish Blues (DJ Pariddle remix)." Tonight's show includes a shtetlmeister, a klezmer dancer who leads the audience in dancing. \$20. **Feb. 8: Davina & the Vagabonds.** Fronted by the powerful vocals of singer-songwriter Davina Sowers, who has been compared to everyone from Etta James and Janis Joplin to Billie Holiday and Betty Boop, this Minneapolis Americana quintet plays a brand of high-energy horn-based blues that incorporates New Orleans charm, Memphis soul swagger, tender gospel passages, and dark theatrical moments that evoke Kurt Weill. The band has a forthcoming live CD, *Nicollet and Tenth*. \$15. **Feb. 9: Steve Poltz and Grant-Lee Phillips.** Double bill. The former lead singer of the Rugburns, Poltz is best known as the coauthor of Jewel's hit single "You Were Meant for Me." According to the *North Country Times*, the music in his latest CD, *Chinese Vacation*, "weds his love of absurdity to winsome melodies and aching chords." The former frontman of

## On the Tracks

With Billy Brandt and Billy King

There's no prettier performance venue in the area than the repurposed Chelsea Depot. The ornate nineteenth-century former railroad stop with curlicue moldings, wooden floor, high ceilings, and many tall windows is the kind of place that holds countless memories and untold stories. It's the perfect setting for an intimate evening of roots-inspired folk singer-songwriters.

Annie Capps, one of the most beloved and talented local practitioners of that art, must have sensed that when she began hosting the monthly On the Tracks Songwriter Showcase series there three years ago. By now, a lot of other people in the area agree; the series draws a healthy crowd for each performance. They come for the music, the coffee and cookies, and for the sense of community that fills the Depot for every show. The Amtrak trains don't stop, but they sometimes roar by—with luck during intermission ... or during a train song.

Like earlier concerts in the series, this month's Showcase on Wednesday, February 3 (see Events) will feature two musicians, Billy Brandt and Billy King, each of whom has a

long track record as a respected songwriter and much-loved performer. The double bill offers striking similarities but also sharp contrasts.

Brandt and King are each quite comfortable wailing with electric guitar and rocking out with drums, bass, and band backing; Brandt has long been fronting bands like Grievous Angel and the Sugarees, while King started out in a preteen duo with his brother Kenny, performed with the King family band, and has most recently been heard with the Understorey. But both are equally at ease with just an acoustic guitar, which is how they'll perform at OTT. And both have been heavily influenced by the Sixties—Brandt grew up in that decade, and King was steeped in it through his parents' love of its music.

But there are distinct differences too. Brandt has a smoky, warm, well-worn baritone, while King's clear tenor allows him to comfortably hit notes others strain for. Brandt's songs project an urban sensibility. On his bluesy, swingin' "Mexico" he sings, "When the world closes in I just have to go, it's time to run to Mexico, for how long I just don't know." But while Brandt is city, King



is pure country. He's lived and worked all his life on his family's farm near Manchester, and his songs reflect that reality. "Standing on the part of the world where I belong / Taking up some space on the place that I depend on / Astronauts and pioneers setting out for new frontiers / I'm OK right where I've landed / I shall remain firmly planted."

Emily Slomovits will be backing both Billys with fiddle and harmony vocals. If you glance down to the end of this column, you'll note our identical last names. But don't just take this proud papa's word for it—both songwriters think highly of her as well. You'll enjoy them all.

—Sandor Slomovits

the popular postpunk folk-rock band Grant Lee Buffalo, Phillips has reemerged as an acoustic Americana singer-songwriter who writes gorgeously evocative songs on an array of public and private themes. "My albums are becoming more stark, more unguarded, and more vulnerable," Phillips says of his 2010 CD *Little Moon*, and his latest CD, *Walking in the Green Corn*, is a collection of songs exploring his Muskogee (Creek) heritage. \$20. **Feb. 10: Freakwater.** This acclaimed Chicago-based trio was one of the seminal influences on the 1990s national postrock country scene. Led by two Kentucky natives—singer-guitarists Janet Beveridge Bean and Catherine Ann Irwin—Freakwater sets pungent, emotionally engaging contemporary lyrics to traditional country music performed with a vibrant simplicity and freshness and an often bleak truth-telling that provokes comparisons to the Carter Family and Hank Williams. Their show tonight will probably include material from a new *Bloodshot* CD—their 1st in nearly 10 years—due out later this year. \$15. **Feb. 11: "My Folky Valentine."** In-the-round performances by local singer-songwriters Annie and Rod Capps and other Midwestern ensembles with performing couples TBA. \$15. **Feb. 12: Christine Lavin & Don White.** Singer-songwriter duo. A veteran New York City artist who has been described as a mix of Bette Midler, Tom Lehrer, Steve Goodman, and Janis Ian, Lavin is known for the sharp wit and comically warped perspectives of songs like "Stop Sobbing ... He's an Idiot" and "Tom Cruise Scars Me." She's also known for her bittersweet miniatures of lost romance, and she's a tastefully tuneful composer, a superb guitarist, and a playfully unpredictable performer whose shows are always sprinkled with a healthy dose of between-songs humor and spiky commentary. White, whose fans include Lavin and Livingston Taylor, is a veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, who writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. He's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Winning Streak*. \$25. **Feb. 13: "BreakFEST 2016."** A benefit for the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church breakfast program for the homeless. "Nathan Bell is a veteran Nashville country-folk singer-songwriter known for his fresh, literate takes on a wide assortment of subjects from love, families, and war to muscle cars and factory towns. "Nathan writes from the perspective of the working man better than anyone I've ever encountered—and he does so with songs that speak with pure truth, without the swagger that too many artists attempt to pass off as blue-collar authenticity," says *No Depression* critic Larry Looney in his review

of Bell's new CD, *Blood like a River*. **Rachel Brown & the Beatnik Playboys** is a versatile country, blues, and folk band led by singer-songwriter Brown. **Dakota Dave Hull** is a veteran Twin Cities-based acoustic ragtime guitarist whose repertoire also includes jazz, folk, blues, Western swing, and vintage pop. He's played with everyone from Doc Watson and Utah Phillips to Garrison Keillor. **The Midwest Territory Band** is a self-styled "jug-band jazz" by this local acoustic trio led by blues-oriented vocalist and guitar virtuoso Rollie Tussing. With bassist Serge Van der Voo and percussionist Jim Carey. Opening act is **Samantha Dunlap**, a Chelsea High junior who sings a few jazz and blues tunes. \$30. 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 14: Caravan of Thieves.** Gypsy-flavored acoustic swing by this quartet led by the Bridgeport (CT) husband-and-wife duo of Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni. The band is known for its theatrical, fun-filled live shows in which the audience is invited to clap, stomp, and sing along. The band's new CD, *Kiss Kiss*, combines the dark humor and sarcastic social commentary of their previous albums with an added emphasis on love and all the beauty and danger it brings. \$20. **Feb. 15: Albert Lee.** A veteran English electric guitar virtuoso whom Eric Clapton calls "the greatest guitarist in the world," Lee is a master of just about every style of Anglo-American vernacular music, but he is best known for his influence on country guitarists, both from his stints in the bands of Emmylou Harris, Rodney Crowell, and the Everly Brothers and from his own "Country Boy," which helped redefine country guitar. \$25. **Feb. 16: Shawn Colvin.** A renowned singer-songwriter who has been compared to Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman, Colvin is known for her storytelling flair, pop smarts, and arresting blend of emotional intensity and sardonic wit. *PopMatters* writer Will Layman praised her 2013 CD *All Fall Down* for its "sustained mood, its clarity of vision, its consistently lovely orchestration, and its pungent and specific lyrics," and her new CD, *Uncovered*, is a collection of personalized covers of a dozen of her contemporaries, from Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder to Springsteen and Waits. \$40 (\$65 includes a preconcert dinner at Café Felix). **Feb. 17: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Feb. 18: Buckwheat Zydeco.** Buckwheat Zydeco is the stage name of Stanley Dural, a celebrated zydeco accordionist who, legend has it, took up the instrument in response to a challenge from zydeco king Clifton Chenier, in whose band Dural was playing keyboards.

Dural's brand of this joyous Creole music with the distinctive zigzag beat has a very strong blues bias, with a large dose of New Orleans R&B. \$20. **Feb. 19: Smooth Hound Smith.** East Nashville-based duo of Zack Smith and Caitlin Doyle that uses foot percussion, complex finger-picked guitar patterns, harmonicas, tasty harmonies and a lot of tambourine to create a brand of Americana roots music that *No Depression* calls "a raucous clash of backwoods folk, raw blues, and underground rock." \$15. **Feb. 20: Jane Siberry.** Canadian art-rock singer-songwriter whose richly textured, adventurously multilayered, highly conceptual, and ethereally lyrical original songs have provoked comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Laurie Anderson. Her concert repertoire features songs from throughout her career, and she comes to town with a brand-new CD, *Consider the Lily*. \$20. **Feb. 21: Claire Lynch Band.** Bluegrass-based ensemble led by Lynch, a veteran singer-songwriter whose pointed, incisively evocative songs have been covered by everyone from Patty Loveless and Kathy Mattea to the Seldom Scene. She's also one of the best singers in country music, with a high, trebly voice that's both sweet and gutsy. Her music ranges from straight-ahead bluegrass to adventurous forays with bluegrass instrumentation into pop, country, and rock terrain. "Claire Lynch's music comes from a crossroads where folk, bluegrass, and pop meet, with elements of all three creating an enchanting musical hybrid that's difficult to pigeonhole but delightful to listen to," says John Taylor on his *Blogcritics* review of Lynch's 2009 CD *Whatcha Gonna Do*. "Lynch applies her astonishingly clear, pure voice to a carefully-chosen collection of tunes that positively pulse with a joyous celebration of life." \$20. **Feb. 22: Lúnasa.** Critically acclaimed all-star acoustic instrumental ensemble whose renditions of traditional Irish music are known for their rare blend of exploratory musical intelligence and fiery passion. Members are Flook guitarist Ed Boyd, Coalfin fiddler Seán Smyth, Moving Cloud flutist Kevin Crawford, Nomos piper Cillian Vallely, and bassist Trevor Hutchinson. \$25. **Feb. 23: The Wild Reeds.** L.A.-based Americana country-rock quintet fronted by the seamless, shimmering harmony vocals of Kinsey Lee, Mackenzie Howe and Sharon Silva. The band's debut CD, *Blind and Brave*, is a collection of songs about loss, love, growing up, and pursuing dreams. FREE. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. **Feb. 24: Tommy Emmanuel.** Sold out. **Feb. 25: Comas.** Traditional Irish music by the all-star quartet of fiddler Aidan Burke, flutist and uilleann piper Isaac Alderson, guitarist Philip Masure, and percussionist Anna Colliton. \$15 (\$25 by reservation only includes dinner entrée at



Conor O'Neill's before the show). **Feb. 26: Mustard's Retreat.** Longtime local favorites Michael Hough and David Tamulevich perform both traditional songs and original pieces that alternate between Hough's sometimes spellbinding, sometimes humorous narrative ballads, and Tamulevich's poignant lyrical songs. According to songwriter Garnet Rogers, Mustard's Retreat "represents everything that is best about folk music. Their songs have entered the lexicon of anonymous folk songs." Both Hough and Tamulevich are accomplished guitarists, and they also play banjo, mandolin, flute, autoharp, harmonica, and tin whistle. \$20. **Feb. 28: Mipso.** See review, p. 76. Chapel Hill (NC) acoustic string quartet whose music is a brand of rootsy country-folk that blends bluegrass-style vocal harmonies with subtle ensemble playing. The band recently released its 3rd CD, *Old Time Reverie*. \$15. **Feb. 29: Howie Day.** 29-year-old folk-rock singer-songwriter from Bangor, Maine, known for his emotionally direct lyrics, melodic inventiveness, and lively, passionate vocals. He has a brand-new record, *Lanterns*. \$20.

## The B-Side

310 E. Washington 214-9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 5: "First Friday Rock Showcase."** With the electronic funk quintet *Kid Grizzly*, the art-punk quartet *Art Kills*, and other local teen rock bands.

## The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local club features live music most Wed.-Sat. and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Cover, dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at [ctix.com](http://ctix.com). **Feb. 3: Jennifer Hall.** Soulful indie rock by a band led by this highly regarded Chicago singer-songwriter with a powerhouse voice. Opening acts are *Dad*, local jazz and electronica singer-songwriter *Julian Allen*, and the local soul-funk quartet *Stankface*. Advance tickets: \$7. **Feb. 4: Jacob Sigman.** Toledo folk-rock singer-songwriter. Opening acts are Detroit pop singer-songwriter *Cooper Anstett*, the East Lansing alt-hip-hop pop quartet *Mesa Villa*, local pop-rock singer-songwriter *Aaron Dombey*, and the local electronica-rock duo *2Faced*. **Feb. 5: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Feb. 6: Alex Koi.** Experimental postpunk jazz singer-songwriter, a U-M music student from Pittsburgh who cites Laurie Anderson, Bjork, Radiohead, and Debussy among her influences. Opening acts are *THC Quartet*, a local jazz ensemble led by multi-instrumentalist and composer Tristan Cappel, a U-M jazz student, and *Rooms*. **Feb. 10: Cooke.** Soulful, blues-inflected pop-rock quartet from Brooklyn led by singer-songwriter Robbie Cook. Opening acts are *Cetan Clawson Revival*, a Monroe blues-rock band, and *The Howling Loud*, a local postpunk rock 'n' roll trio. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. **Feb. 11: Broccoli Samurai.** Electronica jam band from Cleveland. Opening act is *Liquid Monk*, a Detroit funk-rock jam quintet. Advance tickets: \$10. **Feb. 12: Elle Casazza.** Energetic, pop-friendly folk-rock by this ensemble led by Chicago singer-songwriter Casazza. Opening acts are *Madelyn Grant*, a young sultry-voiced soul and R&B singer-songwriter whose influences range from Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye to Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu, and *Joanna & the Jaywalkers*, an Ypsilanti alternative rock quartet. **Feb. 13: The Love Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Feb. 17: It Lies Within.** Anthemic metal quintet from Flint. Opening acts are the Detroit metal band *Echo of Silence*, the St. Louis postpunk rock quintet *The Few*, the Hamburg metalcore quintet *Abandon the Abyss*, and the South Lyon electronica band *Stella Polaris*. Advance tickets: \$10 (\$13 at the door). **Feb. 18: JLA.** Local self-styled "space jazz" quartet whose instrumentation includes keytars, keyboards, and drums. Opening acts are *Monogamy*, a local lo-fi shoegaze-synthpop band, and *Smigs*. **Feb. 19: Mustard Plug.** High-energy, theatrical postpunk ska by this popular veteran band from Grand Rapids. Opening acts are *The Vulnerable*, a Detroit self-styled "queer ska-core" quintet, and *1592*, a Detroit reggae and rocksteady band. **Feb. 20: Tunde Olaniran.** Flint singer-songwriter who describes his R&B dance music as "the lovechild of Prince, Kanye West, and Kraftwerk." Opening act is *Pocket Candies*, a local indie rock band whose music draws on electronic, industrial, and jazz influences. Advance tickets: \$10. **Feb. 23: TBA.** **Feb. 24 & 26: Aaron Carter.** Best-selling dance-pop singer-songwriter. Opening act is *Dan Henig*, a local introspective folk-rock singer-songwriter whose songs blend pop smarts with lyrical sophistication. Advance tickets: \$15 (\$65 VIP tickets include a meet & greet with Carter). **Feb. 25: Ron Pope & the Nighthawks.** Rootsy pop-rock

by this band led by NYC-based, Georgia-bred singer-songwriter whose music ranges from guitar-fueled anthems to introspective ballads. Opening act is *Truett*, a postpunk pop-soul singer-songwriter from Atlanta. Advance tickets: \$17 (\$20 at the door). **Feb. 27: TBA.**

## The Blue Nile

221 E. Washington 998-4746

This downtown restaurant features live music, Fri. & Sat. 6-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Louis Johnson.** Jazz standards and New Ethiopian jazz by this local pianist and saxophonist. On Saturdays he is joined by bassist Will Austin and other friends TBA.

## Bona Sera

200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 340-6335

This Ypsilanti restaurant features occasional live music in its underground lounge. Dancing, occasional cover. **Feb. 13: Guilty Pleasures Burlesque.** Valentine's show with this local burlesque troupe. DJ Salina Style plays dance music between sets. Age 21 & older. \$15. 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

## Café Verde

214 N. Fourth Ave. 994-9174

This café in the People's Food Co-op features acoustic musicians and duos, Thurs. 6-8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. February schedule TBA.

## The Cavern Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890

This downtown basement club in the Celebration Cellars banquet space features occasional live music, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. There is also sometimes music in the street-level Millennium Club and Gotham City and the 2nd-floor Circus Bar & Billiards. Also, karaoke in the Circus, Wed.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Occasional cover, dancing. **Feb. 27: Killer Flamigos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. In the Millennium Club.

## The Club Above

215 N. Main 686-4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted (except as noted). **Feb. 5: Jive Colossus.** Local 9-piece ensemble with a killer horn section fronted by vocalist Shelly Catlan that plays Afro-Caribbean, funk, rock, and blues dance music. Opening act is *Hullabaloo* (see Necto). **Feb. 6: Planet D.** Ypsilanti rock cover band. 6:30-9 p.m. **Feb. 6: Bass-Over Takeover.** Bass-heavy dance music with DJs *Strange Infinity*, *Basstronaut*, *DJ Lachjaw*, and *Secrt Asian Mn*. **Feb. 10: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** DJs with futurism, beats, and bass music. **Feb. 11: "Copacetic."** The popular soul-inflected hip-hop singer and rapper *Nickie P* host an evening of underground hip-hop, soul, and dreamwave. Tonight is a tribute to the late Detroit hip-hop MC and producer J Dilla. **Feb. 12: "The Red Party."** Showcase of Ypsilanti hip-hop artists. Hosted by *DJ Marvelous*. Formal attire encouraged. **Feb. 13: "Techno and House Party."** DJ Pat in the Hat plays vinyl-only techno & house records. **Feb. 19: TBA.** **Feb. 20: "Dancehall & Reggae Night."** Dance party with Ann Arbor Reggae DJs. **Feb. 24: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** See above. **Feb. 26: "8-Bit Above."** Electronic musicians TBA create so-called "chiptune" dance music using antique video games hardware. **Feb. 27: "Hip-Hop and R&B Mixer."** With local and regional artists TBA.

## Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw 327-6914

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment on occasional Fri. No cover (except as noted), no dancing. **Feb. 5: Nadim Assam.** Local pop-oriented hip-hop singer-songwriter whose new EP, *Here's to Changes Vol. 1*, is a collection of songs about love and loneliness he wrote as a troubled teen.

## Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Feb. 4: Painted White.** Detroit acoustic duo of singer Holly Schiavulli and guitarist Garret Schmittling whose repertoire includes classic funk, pop dance hits, classic and modern rock, and even a few country songs.

**Feb. 6: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by these local brothers. **Feb. 11: Bob Skon.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Feb. 13: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. **Feb. 18: Sophie Mendel.** Pop-rock and pop-folk covers by this local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 20: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Feb. 25: Reeds & Steel.** See Mash. **Feb. 27: Social Bones.** Detroit country-rock jam band.

## Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30-10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 5: Kerry Patrick Clark.** Veteran Ohio-bred pop-folk singer-songwriter. **Feb. 6: Derek Daniel.** Acoustic folk, blues, and rock covers and originals by this Ypsilanti singer-guitarist. **Feb. 12: Dr. Mike & the Sea Monkeys.** Whitmore Lake acoustic duo whose quirky, funny, and sometimes heartrending blues and folk-style originals are based on work of the award-winning humorist and nationally syndicated columnist Mike Ball. **Feb. 13: Ryan Racine.** Veteran local alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly singer-songwriter. **Feb. 19: Ghost City Searchlight.** Dearborn postpunk quartet whose music draws on Celtic and American folk idioms. **Feb. 20: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Feb. 26: Ed Dupas.** Local country-folk Americana singer-songwriter whose influences range from Springsteen to Steve Earle. **Feb. 27: February Sky.** Chicago-based duo of guitarist, banjoist, and dulcimer player Susan Urban, a singer-songwriter who writes story songs and humorous slice-of-life vignettes, and guitarist Phil Cooper, who sings original arrangements of traditional and contemporary songs.

## Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657-2337

This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music. Cover (usually a donation), dancing. February schedule TBA.

## The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.-Thurs. 7-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Keaton Royer.** Solo jazz pianist. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring pianist Gil Scott Chapman, bassist Russell Tessier, and drummer Robert Warren.

## The Elks Lodge

220 Sunset 761-7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Fri. & Sat. 6-10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Every Thurs.: "Hip-Hop Open Mike."** All hip-hop artists invited.

## Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. (except holiday weekends), 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 6: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. Bedard's tasty 2011 all-instrumental CD, *Pickin' Apart the Past*, includes "Minor Swing '65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune, and he has a new live CD, *Further On*, a collection of vintage and original blues that's highlighted by a show-stopping rendition of "Hawaiian Boogie." **Feb. 13: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Feb. 20: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. **Feb. 27: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** See Mash.

## The Habitat Lounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs. 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 8:30-10 p.m. Also, a DJ Mon., 7 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun., 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover.

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February 4 5 6

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## Tina Giorgi

February 11 12 13

Valentine's Weekend

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"New Joke City"  
"Spotlight Cafe"  
The perfect comedian for this traditional "date night" weekend

## Dwayne Kennedy

February 18 19 20

FX's "Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell"

"The Late Show" w/Letterman  
"Late Night" w/Conan  
"Jimmy Kimmel Live"  
"Premium Blend"  
"Comedy Central Presents"  
"The World Stands Up"  
"Seinfeld" - "Martin"  
"Orlando Jones Show"  
"Desperation Boulevard"  
"Amy Stiller's Breast"  
"Talkin' Dirty after Dark"  
"How High"  
and more!!!



## Derick Lengwenus

February 25 26 27

You've heard him on the "Bob & Tom Show," or seen him on "Laughs," now catch his return to the A2 Comedy Showcase.



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## Music at Nightspots

**Every Sun. and Feb. 2, 3, 9, & 10: The Weber's Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by different piano-based trios and quartets each week. On Feb. 3 & 10, pianist Tim Knapp joins the group to perform Pink Floyd's classic 1979 progressive rock album *The Wall* in its entirety. **Feb. 4: TBA. Feb. 5: Dan Rafferty Band.** Popular 8-piece Detroit pop dance band. **Feb. 6: Persuasion.** Versatile Detroit R&B dance band. **Feb. 11: TBA. Feb. 12 & 13: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Feb. 16: Slice.** Veteran East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Feb. 17 & 18: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this popular local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 19: Free Lance.** Local dance rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder to AC/DC and Guns N' Roses to Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. **Feb. 20: Remedy.** Detroit pop dance band. **Feb. 23: Stiletto Fire.** Windsor pop-rock dance band fronted by vocalist Kerri Brown and guitarist Jeff Fab. **Feb. 24 & 25: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Feb. 26 & 27: Persuasion.** See above.

## LIVE

**102 S. First St. 623-1443**  
This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.-May), 6:30-9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Feb. 5: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Yardbirds, the Byrds, and Dylan to priceless obscurities like Love's "Alone Again Or" and The Foundations' 1968 hit "Build Me Up Buttercup." 6:30-9 p.m. **Feb. 12: The Switchbacks.** Local hard-rocking country and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Janet Benson. 6:30-9 p.m. **Feb. 19: The Shelter Dogs.** Local self-styled "lounge-a-billy" trio that plays vintage swing, rockabilly, and blues. With upright bassist Todd Perkins, guitarist Pete Bullard, and drummer Tom Twiss. 6:30-9 p.m. **Feb. 26: Drivin' Side-ways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist Tyler Stipe, bassist Pat Prouty, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. 6:30-9 p.m.

## Mash

**211 E. Washington 222-4095**  
This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.-midnight and Thurs.-Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6-9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Feb. 3: Reeds & Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and guitarist Jimmy Alter. **Feb. 4: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** An intense fusion of funk, soul, and blues by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Rain. **Feb. 5: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 5: Brett Mitchell & the Giant Ghost.** Midland pop-rock band led by Mitchell, a singer-songwriter and drummer whom *Grand Rapids Press* music critic John Sinkevics calls "the new millennium's version of Marshall Crenshaw." **Feb. 6: James Muto.** Jackson pop-folk singer-songwriter. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 6: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Feb. 10: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Feb. 11: Barelyon.** Soulful pop-rock by this Detroit duo. **Feb. 12: Adam Labeaux.** An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, soul, funk, and rock originals by this local singer-songwriter, a former Ragbirds guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 12: The Alligators.** Detroit R&B and blues band. **Feb. 13: Matt Boylan.** Covers and originals by this local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 13: Sonic Freeway.** Versatile Detroit-area 6-piece dance band whose repertoire includes Motown and classic and country-rock. **Feb. 17: Barelyon.** See above. **Feb. 18: Ari Teitel Band.** Detroit Americana rock ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Teitel, whose music draws on soul, funk, blues, and gospel influences. **Feb. 19: Jay Fry.** Local singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 19: The Terraplanes.** See Guy Hollerin's. **Feb. 20: Sophie Mendel.** Pop-rock and pop-folk covers by this local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 20: The Bluescasters.** Veteran local quartet that plays intense, low-down blues and blues-rock. **Feb. 24: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Feb. 25: The Mainstays.** Kalamazoo soul-funk quintet led by singer-songwriter Andrew Schrock

and featuring 2 other members of the veteran blues-funk band Funktion. **Feb. 26: Reeds & Steel.** See above. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 26: The Canastas.** Canton quintet that plays vintage jump blues, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and ska. **Feb. 27: Logan White.** Local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Feb. 27: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas.

## The Necto

**516 E. Liberty 994-5436**  
This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, Friday happy hour bands (no cover) in the Red Room, 5:30-8:30 p.m., and occasional other live shows. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 5: The Medicine Men.** This local quartet plays danceable 60s-80s rock covers from the Doors to the Allman Brothers to Lynyrd Skynyrd. **Feb. 12: Shoot the Messenger.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-bassist Chris Goerke. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. With singer-guitarist Steve Newhouse and drummer Tom Twiss. **Feb. 19: She-Bop & the Riff Raff.** Local septet with a repertoire of vintage and contemporary pop, rock, and blues covers that's fronted by the girl-group-style vocals of Robin Peterson, Laurie Lounsbury, and Jennifer Carr Rumberger. **Feb. 26: Hullabaloo.** Veteran local ska and 80s-style pop dance band.

## Old Town

**122 W. Liberty 662-9291**  
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Tues., & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Feb. 2: Sam Genson Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Genson. **Feb. 7: No music. Feb. 9: Klezmephonic.** Local klezmer quintet. With clarinetist Jennie Lavine, accordionist Will Cicola, violinist Henrik Karapetyan, guitarist Alex Belhaj, and bassist Dave Sharp. **Feb. 14: Lac La Belle.** Detroit acoustic Americana duo led by multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriters Jennie Knaggs and Nick Schillace. **Feb. 16: RJ Spangler Trio.** A mix of classic jazz and blues by this Detroit trio led by drummer Spangler. **Feb. 21: Danny Kline.** Veteran local country-inflected folk-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Feb. 23: Dan Bennett Trio.** Local jazz trio led by saxophonist Bennett. **Feb. 28: Ryan Dillaha.** Ferndale alt-country singer-songwriter.

## Oz's Music Environment

**1920 Packard 662-8283**  
This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30-9 p.m. **Feb. 2: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak.

## The Ravens Club

**207 S. Main 214-0400**  
This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Heather Black Project.** Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

## Rush Street

**314 S. Main 913-0330**  
This martini lounge features nightly DJs, along with live music, first Fri. of the month 5-8 p.m., Fri. 8-10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Dancing, no cover. **Every Fri. (except Feb. 12): Legendary Wings.** Local jazz quintet that focuses on dynamic, challenging, and less commonly heard music from the modern jazz repertoire interspersed with free improvisation. The usual lineup features saxophonists Dan Bennett and Tim Haldeman, Fender Rhodes electric pianist Matt Endahl, bassist Jordan Schug, and drummer Nick Collins. **Feb. 5: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With **The Sheila Landis Quartet**, a Detroit ensemble led by Landis, a bold, brassy jazz singer known for her clean, precise phrasing. With guitarist Rick Matle, bassist Kurt Krahne, and drummer Karen Tomalis. **Feb. 12: Andy Adamson Quartet.** Jazz originals by keyboardist Adamson in styles ranging from traditional to modern electric jazz, along with some free improvisation. With saxophonist Dan Bennett, acoustic and electric bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer John Taylor.

## Silvio's Organic Pizza

**715 North University 214-6666**  
This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6-8 p.m., Fri. 7-9 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, dancing to DJs with swing music (Wed. 10 p.m.-midnight) and tango music (Fri. 10 p.m.-midnight). No cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Will Mefford.** Improvisations on jazz standards by this local pianist. **Feb. 5: Liz Royce.** Rock, folk, blues, and country classics by this local torch singer and pianist. **Feb. 12: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. The band has a recent CD, *Triangle*. **Feb. 19: TBA. Feb. 26: Sunday Morning Light.** Modern folk covers and originals by the acoustic ensemble of cajón player Michael Snyder-Barker, guitarist Feter, upright bassist Cheech Migneco, and fiddler Dixie Andres.

## Tap Room

**201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320**  
This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. 8 p.m.-midnight, and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Feb. 26: McLaughlin's Alley.** Detroit pop-rock quintet fronted by sibling singer-songwriters Tina and Maureen Paraventi.

## Wolverine State Brewing Co.

**2019 W. Stadium 369-2990**  
This west-side brewpub features occasional live music, 8:30-11:30 p.m. No cover, dancing. February schedule TBA.

## The Yellow Barn

**416 W. Huron 635-8450**  
This performance venue just west of downtown features live music Wed., most Fri. & Sat. & occasional other nights, 7:30-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 3: "Unplugged Wednesday."** Acoustic performances by the veteran Massachusetts folk singer and songwriter Ian Fitzgerald, the former DeCamp Sisters folk-rock singer-songwriter Riley Pinkerton, and **Mike Gentry**, a local pop-folk singer-songwriter whom longtime *Guitar Player* editor Jas Obrecht calls "brilliant at coffeehouse-approved acoustic music, blistering hard rock, and most styles in between." **Feb. 10: "Unplugged Wednesday."** Acoustic performances by **Mike Gentry** (see above) and **Matthew Fowler**, an Orlando folk-rock singer-songwriter whose 2014 debut CD, *Beginning*, has provoked comparisons to the likes of Ray LaMontagne and Glen Hansard. **Feb. 14: "My Texty Valentine."** The local neo-swing big band **Accidentally Hip** presents an evening of songs about loving and losing. Advance tickets: \$15. **Feb. 17: "Unplugged Wednesday."** Acoustic performances by **Marten Murphy**, the Detroit blues-based folk-rock Americana duo of harpist Ken Marten and singer-guitarist James Murphy, and **West Park Music Society**, a local dance band whose music mixes jazz, Latin, and pop. Tonight's show includes several holiday standards and originals. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, guitarist Kip Godwin, guitarist and woodwinds player Jim Cooney, clarinetist and conga player Charles Dayringer, and bassist Tim Berla. **Feb. 24: "Unplugged Wednesday."** Acoustic performances by **Phil McMillion**, a veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter, and **Jake Webb**, a Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter.

## Zal Gaz Grotto

**2070 W. Stadium 663-1202**  
This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Sun. 5-8 p.m., Mon. 7-10 p.m., Tues. 5:30-8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Feb. 20: The Renegades.** Classic rock, Motown, & blues cover band from Gregory.



# February Events

## FILMS

- 53 Film Screenings**  
*John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*
- 52 Lone Wolf and Cub**  
*Patrick Dunn*

## GALLERIES

- 65 Exhibit Openings**  
*Katie Whitney*

## MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

- 46 Nightspots**  
*John Hinchey*
- On the Tracks**  
*Sandor Slomovits*



Bill Harley performs at the Ark's 29th Annual Storytelling Festival February 27 and 28.

## EVENTS REVIEWS

- 55 Igor Levit**  
Highly evolved  
*arwulf arwulf*
- 59 NoViolet Bulawayo**  
From Zimbabwe to Kalamazoo  
*Keith Taylor*
- 63 Camille A. Brown & Dancers**  
Black Girl: Linguistic Play  
*Susan Isaacs Nisbett*
- 73 Comic Opera Guild**  
The Barber of Seville  
*Leah O'Donnell*
- 75 George Benson & Glenn Tucker**  
Detroit jazz across the generations  
*Piotr Michalowski*
- 76 Mipso**  
Traditional ideas, new experiences  
*James M. Manheim*

### We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** [events@aaobserver.com](mailto:events@aaobserver.com)
- **By phone:** 769-3175
- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

### What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

### Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ Denotes a free event.

### annarborobserver.com:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at [AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com). This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on [annarborobserver.com](http://annarborobserver.com).

### arbormail:

Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at [AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail\\_help.html](http://AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html).

## WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

[www.AnnArborObserver.com](http://www.AnnArborObserver.com)

## I MONDAY

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** Every Mon., Jan. 11–Apr. 11. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. 10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors (\$125 per semester dues for those who join). 665-9271.

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Mon. Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Playgroups are also offered at 3 AADL branches: Malletts Creek (Tues. 10–11 a.m. & Thurs. 6:30–7:30 p.m.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.–noon), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.; and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30–11:30 a.m.), 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. 10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Mon. & Fri. All seniors invited to play bridge. Some experience necessary. 12:30–4:30 p.m., Turner

Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs. All ages invited to play non-sanctioned (Mon.) & ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Refreshments. 12:30–4 p.m. (Mon.) & noon–3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$3 (members, \$2) on Mon., \$7 (members, \$6) on Wed. & Thurs. 794-6250.

★**"Policy Talk": U-M Ford School of Public Policy Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy.** Talk by Assistant to the President Broderick Johnson, chair of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force. 4–5:30 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615-3893.

★**ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Mon. (except Feb. 15), Tues., Wed., & Fri. All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. 1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.), AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.; 7–8:30 p.m. (Mon. & Tues.), AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy.; 6–7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 1–2:30 p.m. (Fri.), AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327-4200.

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LATINO AMERICANS • 2/1

LATINO AMERICANS  
500 YEARS OF HISTORY**Mon. Feb 1**  
6:30-8:30pm

**FILM & DISCUSSION LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY SERIES PART 3: WAR AND PEACE (1942-1954)** • World War II is a watershed event for Latino Americans with hundreds of thousands of men and women serving in the armed forces, most fighting side by side with Anglos but on the homefront, discrimination is not dead. This session is in English and will be repeated in Spanish on Monday, February 8 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

**Tues. Feb 2**  
7-8:00pm

**POET CLAYTON ESHLEMAN** • An evening with award-winning poet Clayton Eshleman, who will discuss his writing and read excerpts from his new collection of poetry: *The Essential Poetry, 1960-2015*. This event includes a book signing and books will be for sale.

**Wed. Feb 3**  
7-8:30pm

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM THE WHOLE GRITTY CITY** • This 90-minute unrated 2014 documentary plunges viewers into the world of three New Orleans school marching bands in America's most musical city, and one of its most dangerous, as their band directors get them ready to perform in the Mardi Gras parades.

**Thurs. Feb 4**  
7-8:30pm

**PANEL DISCUSSION CITY OF ANN ARBOR 2016 SUSTAINABLE ANN ARBOR FORUM: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** • The second event in this series centers on Resource Management, including discussions about improving Ann Arbor's waste diversion rate and communitywide efforts to reduce different waste streams.

**Tues. Feb 9**  
6:30-8:00pm

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS: A LOOK AT HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, AND YOUR RIGHTS** • This informational panel discussion will focus on resources for veterans and their families in Washtenaw County.

**Wed. Feb 10**  
7-8:30pm

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH LECTURE YPSILANTI AS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN CITY** • Learn about the community's social and political life in the national context of Reconstruction, the rise of Jim Crow, and Michigan's World War II-era Civil Rights Movement with Ypsilanti historian Matt Siegfried. GRADE 6-ADULT

**Thurs. Feb 11**  
6:30-8:00pm

**THE FOUNDATIONS OF SELF-PUBLISHING** • Learn how to hone your writing craft, make writing a priority, navigate self-publishing, identify and promote your author brand, and stand out in a crowded market. • TRAVERWOOD

**Mon. Feb 15**  
7-8:30pm

**NAVIGATING THE IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE** • Join us as author Sandra Amrhein shares life stories depicted in her book *Green Card Stories*, including the obstacles immigrants continue to face across the USA. GRADE 6-ADULT

**Tues. Feb 16**  
7-8:30pm

**CARTOONIST BRIAN FIES** • In the webcomic and graphic novel *Mom's Cancer*, Brian Fies tells the story of his mother's cancer diagnosis and treatment, and its effect on his family. The event includes a book signing and books will be for sale.

**Wed. Feb 17**  
7-8:45pm

**SMELL & TELL EAU WHISKEY** • What do whiskey and perfume have in common? Follow your nose and the answers may surprise you. • DTN 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**Sat. Feb 20**  
1-3:00pm

**STRATEGIES FOR COPING AND HEALING FROM LOSS THROUGH ART AND WRITING** • Join us for an afternoon for individuals and loved ones grieving reproductive loss. • DTN SECRET LAB

**Mon. Feb 22**  
6:30-8:30pm

**FILM & DISCUSSION LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY SERIES PART 4: THE NEW LATINOS (1946-1965)** • Until World War II, Latino immigration to the United States was overwhelmingly Mexican-American. Now three new waves bring large-scale immigration from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. This session is in English and will be repeated in Spanish on Wednesday, February 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

**Tues. Feb 23**  
7-9:00pm

**ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS 2016 CRISTINA HENRÍQUEZ** • Ms. Henríquez will make a special appearance at Washtenaw Community College to discuss *The Book Of Unknown Americans*. Doors will open at 6 PM. The event includes a book signing and books will be for sale courtesy of Nicola's Books. • TOWSLEY AUDITORIUM / WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE • GRADE 9-ADULT

**Tues. Feb 23**  
7-8:30pm

**TEENS, STRESS, AND DEPRESSION** • Learn about factors that increase the risk for depression during adolescence, how to identify early signs of teen depression, and what to do if you suspect that your teen may be depressed.

**Wed. Feb 24**  
7-8:30pm

**ZEN & THE ART OF COLORING FOR ADULTS** • Join us for an evening of coloring for ADULTS and music designed to set a zen mood. We'll provide all the supplies. • PITTSFIELD

**Thurs. Feb 25**  
7-8:30pm

**GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS** • Learn about types of native plants, what they are useful for, where they grow best, and how to create your own sustainable garden or landscape.

FILM • 2/3



SUSTAINABILITY • 2/4



AUTHOR EVENT • 2/15



A2 YPSI READS • 2/23



COLORING FOR ADULTS • 2/24



NATIVE PLANTS • 2/25



★Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Every Mon. All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. 1-3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Mon. & Thurs. All ages invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (\$5.50; age 60 & over, \$3; reservations required). 1-3:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 10-11:30 a.m. (Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. Every Sun.-Fri. All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using modern constructed (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander/Commander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), standard constructed (Thurs.), and booster draft (Fri. & Sun.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri. & Sun.). 6 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) & noon (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. \$5 (Tues., free; Sun. & Fri., \$15 includes cards). 786-3746.

★"Ann Arbor Downtown Group Run": Running Fit. Every Mon. & Thurs. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:15 p.m. (Mon.) & 6:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769-5016.

★New Members Night: Out Loud Chorus. Jan. 25 & Feb. 1. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join the weekly rehearsal of this chorus of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. No sight reading skills or audition required. Concert in May. Snacks. 7-9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 265-0740.

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$35 annual dues for those who join). 274-9463.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Mon. Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5. 395-7782, 769-1052, 426-0241.

★University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Oriol Sans conducts this ensemble of music majors in a program highlighted by Jean Sibelius's Symphony no. 1, a haunting work brimming with heroism. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Mon. Local high school English teacher Barry Ahern throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Jan. 29-Feb. 1 (different locations). Tango dance party in conjunction with this annual festival of tango workshops. See umich.edu/~mate for workshop schedule and pricing. 9:30 p.m.-midnight, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (except Fri., \$15); \$5 discount for students. umich.edu/~mate

2 TUESDAY  
(GROUNDHOG DAY)

"The Little Scientist Club": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Every Tues. & Sat. Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3-6; older siblings welcome. 9:30-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Sat.), AAHOM Green Room (lower level), 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session). All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. 9:45-11:15 a.m. & 1:15-2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. \$15 for the year. 665-0105.

★"Story Time with Ieva": Nicola's Books. Every Tues. Retired youth librarian Ieva Bates reads stories and leads a craft for preschoolers. 10 a.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Tues. & Wed. Stories and songs for kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues. 11-11:30 a.m., Wed. 6-6:30 p.m., & Thurs. 10-10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10-10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7-7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10-10:30 a.m.)



branches. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11-11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**Crafter Coffee/Tea Time: Elsie Earl Studios.** Every Tues. & Thurs. All invited for socializing, beverages, and crafting. Bring a craft project to work on or purchase supplies at the studio to use. 10-11:30 a.m., 1900 Manchester. \$3 admission. 646-6633.

**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Tues. All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for \$5.50 (age 60 & over, \$3) at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; reservations required. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

**★Weekly Rehearsal: Voices Valiant (U-M School of Music).** Every Tues. All age 50 & over invited to join this choir. No experience necessary. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2600 Nixon. Free for visitors (\$112 per cycle membership dues). 936-2660.

**★Adults Tuesday: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tues. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar. Also, at 1 p.m., mah-jongg, quilting, and other games & activities, and at 1:30 p.m., Yiddish Tish, a Yiddish conversation group that also includes readings of Yiddish stories. Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

**★Elizabeth McKenzie: Literati Bookstore.** This Stanford University creative writing instructor reads from *The Portable Veblen*, her big-hearted funny novel about a charming young woman and her brilliant neurologist fiancé whose engagement is on the brink of collapse. *Library Journal* praises it as "a wise and thoroughly engaging story in a satirical style comparable to the works of Christopher Moore and Carl Hiaasen." Signing. 11 a.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor.** Local historians Susan Wineberg and Patrick McCauley discuss their recent book *Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide*. Copies of the book are available for purchase; signing. All newcomers to the area or long-time Ann Arbor area residents invited to get to know each other, sign up for club activities, and play some fun games. The program begins with lunch. 11:30 a.m., Polo Fields Golf & Country Club, 5200 Polo Fields Dr. (off Zeeb Rd. north of Liberty), Scio Twp. \$18. Preregistration required via email to rhag1985@yahoo.com. (281) 435-0350.

**★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Every Tues. Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Feb. 2: Brown University history of art & architecture professor Jeffrey Moser on "Schema and Substance in a Northern Song Vessel." Feb. 9: U-M Center for Chinese Studies postdoc Yamin Cho on "Architectural Versus Improvisational Thinking: Hut/Tent-Building Practices of Tibetan Buddhist Nuns in Post-Mao China." Feb. 16: U-M Asian languages & cultures professor David Rolston is joined by librettist David Henry Hwang and composer Bright Sheng to discuss their new work, *Dream of the Red Chamber, the Opera* (see 18 Thursday listing). Feb. 23: University of Wisconsin history professor Judd Kinzley on "Wielding the 'Sharp Sword': Petroleum and State Power in China's Far West, 1955-1961." Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

**★"Ebola and Its Response: Notes from Ongoing Fieldwork in West Africa": U-M Science, Technology, & Society Program.** Talk by University of Montreal public health and medicine professor and University of Amsterdam medical anthropologist Vinh-Kim Nguyen. 4-5:30 p.m., 5670 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 763-2066.

**★"Heat Rises: 100 Years of Rayleigh-Bénard Convection": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by U-M complex systems, mathematics, & physics professor Charles R. Doering. Reception follows. 4:10 p.m., U-M Alumni Center Founders Room, 200 Fletcher. Free. 998-6251.

**★Dinner Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Tues. Dec.-Mar. 10- to 20-mile ride, at various paces, along the well-maintained Border-to-Border Trail, to a restaurant in either Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti. Front & back lights required, reflective clothing strongly recommended. 6 p.m., ride usually starts from Gallup Park parking lot just south of the bridge over the Huron River. Free. 678-8297, 971-2121.

**★"Ann Arbor East Group Run": Running Fit.** Every Tues. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:15 p.m., Running Fit, 3010 Washtenaw. Free. 548-6299.

**★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA at meetup.com/ann-arbor-stitchnbitch. Free. 945-3035.

**English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Every Tues. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, non-slip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. 7-9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). \$8 (students, \$4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

**★"Cooperatives: Building Resilient Communities": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by PFC outreach and education coordinator David Hall. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news\_and\_events/. 994-4589.

**★Clayton Eshleman: Ann Arbor District Library.** A founder and editor of the seminal poetry journals *Caterpillar* and *Sulfur* and a former EMU English professor, Eshleman is a National Book Award-winning poet whose poems are driven forward by a neo-Whitmanesque poetic personality, unruly and explosive, and a correspondingly inventive language. "An Eshleman poem is unmistakable at first glance," says poet and critic Eliot Weinberger. "Image jams against image, not impressionistically but in service of a passionately argued line of reason, a line in which an idea, before completion, turns into another idea, and then another." Tonight he discusses his career and reads from his new collection, *The Essential Poetry, 1960-2015*. Signing. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

**★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** Every Tues., Jan. 5-Apr. 26. All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perampall directs. 7-9 p.m., Gladwin Center barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free to visitors (\$80 per semester dues for those who join). 355-7738.

**★Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines.** Every Tues. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 70-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those who join). 612-7580.

**★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** Every Tues. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: Greg Humbel, 445-1925.

**★Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent digital images & prints on various topics, including this month's assignment, "Birds." 7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School auditorium, 1701 Newport. Free. 327-4781.

**★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *También Esto Pasará*, Milena Busquets' semi-autobiographical novel about coping with a mother's death. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**★"My Recent Experiences with Teaching Eurythmy in China": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Talk by former Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor teacher Claudia Fontana, a veteran eurythmist who has studied this art of movement and gesture at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 678-5497, (517) 927-3696.

**★"Decay in America's Nuclear Arsenal": U-M Ford Presidential Library.** Los Angeles Times national correspondent Ralph Vartabedian discusses current problems with the U.S. nuclear weapons infrastructure. Reception follows. 7:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205-0555.

**★"Nanook of the North with Tanya Tagaq": University Musical Society.** Inuit throat singer Tagaq, winner of the 2014 Polaris Prize for Album of the Year, performs her live score to a screening of *Nanook of the North*, Robert Flaherty's pioneering 1922 documentary about the indigenous people of northern Quebec. Unnerving and exquisite, Tagaq's performances are rooted in Inuit throat singing but also draw on electronica, industrial, and metal idioms. With drummer Jean Martin and violinist Jesse Zubot. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$50 & \$60 in advance at tickets.ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

**★German Speakers Round Table.** Every Tues. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453-2394.

**★"The Complete Brahms Sonatas for Violin and Piano and for Viola and Piano": U-M School of Music.** Feb. 2 & 3 (different programs). U-M violin professor Kathryn Votapek and MSU piano professor emeritus Ralph Votapek perform Brahms' 3 violin sonatas and 2 viola sonatas over the course of two evenings. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center

Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

**Opera on Tap.** Local opera singers perform arias and art songs that address this month's theme, "Hearts on Fire." 8:30-10 p.m. (seating begins at 6:30 p.m.), Sidetrack Bar & Grill, 56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free, but donations accepted (buy your own food). Reservations required (call between 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.). 483-5230.

**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Indiana.** The U-M also has games this month against MSU (Feb. 6, 2 p.m.), Purdue (Feb. 13, 2 p.m.) and Northwestern (Feb. 24, 7 p.m.). 9 p.m., Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA at mgoblue.com/tickets. 764-0247.

## 3 WEDNESDAY

**★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** Every Wed., Fri., & Sat. All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chime master Heather O'Neal demonstrates. Noon-12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30-11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369-3107.

**★"A Smaller Dragon?: Epochs in Chinese Movements into Vietnam and Their Consequences": U-M Confucius Institute.** Talk by U-M Center for Southeast Asian studies research associate James Whitmore. Noon-1 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 764-8888.

**★Chess: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Wed. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**★"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** Every Wed.-Sun., Jan. 21-Mar. 26. Lauren Mounsey directs Neil Simon's vintage comedy about 2 men—one a fussy neatnik, the other a free-spirited slob—who find themselves living together after their wives throw them out. Within 2 weeks, the tension between fastidiousness and slovenliness builds to a perilous peak. Cast: David Bendena, David Montee, Michelle Mountain, Jim Porterfield, Rhiannon Ragland, Guy Sanville, Tom Whalen, Chris Lutkin. 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$28 (Wed.), \$25 (Thurs.), \$38 (Fri. eve. & weekend matinees), \$43 (Sat. eve.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. Preview discounts available for the first week of shows. 433-7673.

**★Ann Arbor Naturopathic School of the Healing Arts Lecture Series.** Lecture-demos by NSHA staffers. Topics include *massage and headaches* (Feb. 3), *massage and fibromyalgia* (Feb. 10), *massage and PTSD* (Feb. 17), and *massage and arthritis* (Feb. 24). 4-7 p.m., NSHA, 7920 Jackson. Free, but donations accepted. Preregistration requested. nsahasociates@gmail.com, 769-7794.

**★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabble Club.** Every Wed. Word freaks of all abilities invited to drop in to play this popular word game, using the brand-new 5th edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. 5-8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994-0084.

**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Wed. All invited to play bingo. Cash prizes. 6-10 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 admission. \$9 per game. 769-5911.

**★"Bill Ayers vs. Dinesh D'Souza: The Ultimate Fight Between Left and Right": U-M American Culture Department.** Debate on the question "Is America Exceptional?" between University of Illinois-Chicago education professor (and U-M grad and Weather Underground co-founder) Ayers, a longtime antiwar activist whose books include *Public Enemy: Confessions of an American Dissident*, and D'Souza, a best-selling conservative writer and director of the 2012 campaign documentary 2016: *Obama's America*. Moderator TBA. 6 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 763-1460.

**★"Ann Arbor West Group Run": Running Fit.** Every Wed. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 5700 Jackson. Free. 929-9022.

**★Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, cross stitchers, hand quilters, and other handworkers invited to work on their projects with other crafters. Questions welcome, help available. 6:30-8:30 p.m. or so, Sweetwaters in Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters. 926-8863.

**★"Turandot": Metropolitan Opera (Fathom Events).** Live broadcast (Jan. 30) and rebroadcast (Feb. 3) of the Met's production of Puccini's popular opera set in ancient China. Prince Calaf falls in love with the cold Princess Turandot, whose riddles prove too difficult for her suitors. When Calaf passes her tests, she still refuses to marry him, but he turns the tables and lays before her a challenge in the famous tenor aria "Nes-

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## Decay in America's Nuclear Arsenal



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thekite network

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A dark and fantastical comedy about sad endings, strange beginnings  
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Saturday, February 6, 8:00 p.m.  
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Post-show reception and reflections  
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For tickets, call 800-838-3006 and mention "Kickshaw Theatre,"  
or buy online at [www.kickshawtheatre.org](http://www.kickshawtheatre.org). Mention "kite" for a discounted ticket rate.

**the kite network**, a local nonprofit organization, provides community grief education  
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734-975-0238 / [www.thekitenetwork.org](http://www.thekitenetwork.org)

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**Latitude 42**

**Friday, February 5, 8:00 p.m.**  
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on the campus of Concordia University

**Tickets: \$15 (\$8 seniors & students)**



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## film review

### Lone Wolf and Cub: Sword of Vengeance

Japanese comics  
come to life



While American comic-book superheroes have only recently become a dominant cinematic genre, Japanese comics (*manga*) have inspired decades' worth of animated film and TV adaptations (*anime*). While many live-action manga adaptations also exist, they're generally lesser known—and their following is certainly less fervent than the massive fan cultures structured around anime and manga. Perhaps that's because manga's oversized physical features and exaggerated action can be easily replicated at the hands of an animator.

A live-action manga adaptation, however, opens up unique opportunities for a filmmaker to both echo the printed page and establish his own artistic vision. In the 1972 film *Lone Wolf and Cub: Sword of Vengeance*, director Kenji Misumi does both. The film, which screens February 3 as part of the State Theatre's CineManga series, is the first of six based on the lengthy *Lone Wolf and Cub* saga, originally published from 1970 to 1976.

The film follows Ogami Ittō, a notorious samurai who was the executioner for a brutal shogun until his rivals in the government killed his wife in an attempt to frame him for treason. With his toddler son, Daigoro, in tow, Ittō sets out on the road as an assassin for hire—disgraced, masterless, but still unquestionably deadly.

A filmmaker could take a straightforward approach in telling this story with no nods to the source material's aesthetics, or take the slavish route of trying to replicate printed images on celluloid. The first approach can be less visually interesting than its printed forebear; the second runs the risk of prioritizing

visuals over story (see Zack Snyder's 2009 film adaptation of the landmark graphic novel *Watchmen*). Misumi, however, finds a memorable middle ground in *Sword of Vengeance*. In its lower-key, dialogue-driven scenes, the film achieves a stately visual grace comparable to manga in its more elegant moments while also still embracing camera movement and visual manipulation. In its blood-soaked battle scenes, the film takes on a distinctive staccato rhythm that doesn't necessarily look like manga but certainly captures its explosive energy. There's one memorable slo-mo shot during a sunrise swordfight that clearly aims to replicate the frozen kinetic energy of the page, but in general Misumi successfully emulates the spirit of the source material rather than simply aping its look.

Perhaps even more importantly, Misumi gives ample attention to performance and character. *Sword of Vengeance* is a brutal story, but its protagonists are noble people. As Ittō, Tomisaburo Wakayama is engagingly stoic, a force of both shocking violence and deep-rooted humanity. Tomoko Mayama brings surprising depth to the unevenly written role of a prostitute, essentially the only other redeeming character in this story besides Daigoro, the innocent youngster. It's unlikely that these performances would come across quite as well in the anime format. *Lone Wolf and Cub* remains best known as a printed work, but it's hard to imagine this material being done any better on-screen than it is in *Sword of Vengeance*.

—Patrick Dunn

sun dorma." 6:30 p.m. (Feb. 3) & 12:55 p.m. (Jan. 30),  
Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter).  
Tickets \$18–\$23 (discounts for seniors & children) in  
advance at [fathomevents.com](http://fathomevents.com). 623–7469 (Quality 16)  
& 973–8424 (Rave).

**Ann Arbor Bridge Club.** Every Wed. All invited to  
play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan  
to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive  
20 minutes early. 7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse,  
2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in the designated  
spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) \$6 per  
person. 623–8050.

**Billy Brandt and Billy King: On the Tracks  
Singer-Songwriter Showcase.** See review, p. 46.  
Double bill. Brandt is a veteran Detroit country-  
flavored folk-rock singer-songwriter, and King is a local  
country-flavored pop-folk singer-songwriter. The  
performers also talk about how they came to write  
their songs. 7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson,  
Chelsea. \$15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie  
Capps at 330–5226.

**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.**  
All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on  
the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot re-  
stored by the club. 7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central  
depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.

**History of Books & Printing Reading Group:**  
Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss  
Rebecca Barry's *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories  
of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*. 7:30–9 p.m.,  
Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.

**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great  
Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in  
America.** Every Wed. All invited to join a discussion  
of *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path*, also known as  
*The Philosophy of Freedom*, one of Rudolf Steiner's  
first major writings and one of the basic books of  
anthroposophy. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923  
Geddes Ave. Free. 485–3764.

★**"The Complete Brahms Sonatas for Violin and  
Piano and for Viola and Piano":** U-M School of  
Music. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.**  
Every Wed. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area  
stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 212 S.  
Fourth Ave. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.

**Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor.** Every Wed.  
Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed.  
Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when  
you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. 9–11  
p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Feb. 3 &  
24), Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Feb. 10), and  
Michigan Union Ballroom (Feb. 17). \$5 (students, \$4;  
\$1 discount for members; free for those who attend the  
free lesson at 8 p.m.). 945–8428.

**"Juke Box Jungle":** Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every  
Wed. Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey  
hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. 9–11:30 p.m., Conor  
O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$3 team fee. 665–2968.

## 4 THURSDAY

★**Mah-Jongg:** U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.  
Every Thurs. All seniors invited to play this  
intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Beginners wel-  
come. 10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center,  
2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 332–1874.

★**Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community  
Center.** Every Thurs. Activities, primarily for seniors,  
begin at 10 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a  
60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar.  
An 11 a.m. Current Events discussion group led by  
Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade  
dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reserva-  
tion and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or  
educational program. Feb. 4 & 11: TBA. Feb. 18: Pia-  
nist Deborah Ryan performs a variety of classical and  
contemporary music. Feb. 25: John Seeley discusses  
"The Citizens' Climate Lobby." 10 a.m.–3 p.m.,  
JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd.  
south of Packard). Free, except as noted. 971–0990.



# films

**Note:** Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

**Ann Arbor District Library.** FREE. 327-4555. AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave., various times & room locations.

**Feb. 3: "The Whole Gritty City"** (Richard Barber & Andre Lambertson, 2013). Documentary about young members of 3 New Orleans school marching bands, who grow up in America's most musical city, and one of its most dangerous. Their band directors get them ready to perform in the Mardi Gras parades, and teach them to succeed and to survive. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room.

**Ann Arbor Senior Center.** \$2 (members, free). 794-6250. 1320 Baldwin, 12:30 p.m.

**Every Mon.: "Movie Matinee,"** with films TBA.

**"Branding the New Order: Soviet Constructivist Films from the 1920s."** In conjunction with the current UMMA exhibit of Soviet Constructivist posters. FREE. 764-0395. UMMA Auditorium (525 S. State), various times.

**Feb. 6: "October (Ten Days that Shook the World)"** (Sergei Eisenstein, 1928). Silent reenactment of the 10 days in October 1917 in St. Petersburg when the Bolsheviks brought down the Kerensky government. 4:30 p.m. **"Zvenigora"** (Aleksandr Dovzhenko, Georgi Astafeyev, and Vjaceslav Ovcinnikov, 1927). Silent film that draws on Ukrainian folklore about a grandfather who tells the story of a hidden treasure to his two grandsons, whose responses are dramatically different. 6:30 p.m.

**Feb. 7: "The Love Triangle/Bed and Sofa"** (Abram Room, 1927). Silent drama about a married couple with a small apartment in Moscow who invite an old friend of the husband's to lodge with them. 4:30 p.m. **"The Eleventh Year"** (Dziga Vertov, 1928). Montage of clips edited together to celebrate the accomplishments of the first 10 years of the Soviet Union. 6:15 p.m.

**Feb. 12: "Man with a Movie Camera"** (Dziga Vertov, 1929). Playful silent documentary about a man who uses inventive techniques to film urban life in the Soviet Union. 6:30 p.m. Preceded at 4:30 p.m. by **"Branding the New Order: Soviet Constructivism,"** a panel discussion with exhibit curator Lehti Keelmann and U-M faculty members TBA.

**Fathom Events.** 973-8424 (Rave) & 623-7469 (Quality 16). Tickets \$8-\$12 in advance at fathom-events.com. Different times, Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter).

**Feb. 14 & 17: "Pretty in Pink"** (Howard Deutch, 1986). Classic John Hughes drama about a poor teen who struggles with class differences when she starts dating a rich guy. 2 p.m. (both locations on Feb. 14 and Rave only on Feb. 17) & 7 p.m. (both locations on Feb. 17 and Rave only on Feb. 14).

**Feb. 21 & 24: "The Maltese Falcon"** (John Huston, 1941). Classic detective drama adapted from the Dashiell Hammett novel about "the stuff dreams are made of." Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre. With commentary by Turner Classic Movies host Ben Mankiewicz in celebration of the film's 75th anniversary. 2 p.m. (both locations on Feb. 21 and Rave only on Feb. 24) & 7 p.m. (both locations on Feb. 24 and Rave only on Feb. 21).

**Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** \$5 suggested donation. 327-0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

**Feb. 20: "Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

**Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** FREE. 994-3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

**Feb. 26: "The Sea Inside"** (Alejandro Amenabar, 2004). Drama based on the life story of a Spaniard, left a quadriplegic after a diving accident, who fought a 30-year campaign in favor of euthanasia and his right to end his life. Followed by discussion.

**Karma Thegsum Choling.** FREE. 678-7549. 614 Miner, 7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 17: "The Tibetan Yogis"** (Jeffrey Phil, 2002). For the first time, the reclusive and secretive Tibetan

monks agree to discuss aspects of their philosophy and allow themselves to be filmed while performing their ancient practices.

**"Latino Americans: 500 Years of History."** A series of 6 episodes, created by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association, featuring documentary film screenings and discussions exploring the history and experiences of Latinos. The series runs through April, with each session presented in English (Mon.) and in Spanish (Wed.) FREE. 327-4555. Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Feb. 1 & 3: "War and Peace (1942-1954)"** This episode covers the experiences of Latinos during WW II and during the early postwar years. Followed by discussion led by U-M sociology and American culture professor Silvia Pedraza.

**Feb. 22 & 24: "The New Latinos (1946-1965)"** This episode focuses on 3 new waves of large-scale Latino immigration, from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. Followed by discussion led by U-M Romance linguistics professor Teresa Satterfield.

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; weekdays before 6 p.m., \$7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

**Opens Jan. 29: "Oscar Shorts 2016,"** including animated, live action, and documentary programs.

**Feb. 1: "Much Ado about Nothing"** (Joss Whedon, 2012). A contemporary retelling of Shakespeare's high-spirited, sharp-tongued comedy about 2 pairs of young lovers. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 2 & 3: Sundance Shorts.** A collection of 6 of the best animated and live action short films from the 2015 Sundance competition. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 4: Sundance Film Festival.** Official 2016 Sundance Festival screening and world premiere of a film TBA. \$18 (MTF members, \$15). 7 p.m.

**Opens Feb. 5: "45 Years"** (Andrew Haigh, 2015). A married couple preparing to celebrate their anniversary receive shattering news that will alter the course of their lives.

**Feb. 8: "West Side Story"** (Robert Wise & Jerome Robbins, 1961). Today only. Film version of the popular Leonard Bernstein musical about a late-1950s Romeo and Juliet caught between rival New York gangs. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 9: "Code: Debugging the Gender Gap"** (Robin Hauser Reynolds, 2015). Documentary about the dearth of female and minority software engineers and the causes and economic consequences of it. Followed by a talk on the topic TBA. 7 p.m.

**Opens Feb. 12: "Lady in the Van"** (Nicholas Hytner, 2015). Comedy about a man who forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway. Maggie Smith.

**Feb. 14: "Roman Holiday"** (William Wyler, 1953). Classic film about a runaway princess who leaves the castle to have a fling with a reporter. Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 15: "Throne of Blood"** (Akira Kurosawa, 1957). Stunning, eloquent reconception of Shakespeare's Macbeth, set in feudal Japan's samurai warrior society. 7 p.m.

**Opens Feb. 19: "Son of Saul"** (László Nemes, 2015). A Hungarian prisoner working at one of the Auschwitz crematoriums attempts to salvage his son's body and find a rabbi to bury it.

**Feb. 22: "Hamlet"** (Kenneth Branagh, 1996). The director stars in this epic, 4-hour all-star production of Shakespeare's tragedy, updated to the 19th century. Derek Jacobi, Julie Christie, Gerard Depardieu, John Gielgud, Kate Winslet, Charlton Heston, Rosemary Harris, Jack Lemmon, Billy Crystal, Robin Williams. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 26: "Fly Fishing Film Tour"** An anthology of cutting-edge films aimed at both entertaining and

educating outdoor enthusiasts. \$16; discounted tickets available at Schultz Outfitters (4 E. Cross, Ypsilanti). 7 p.m.

**Feb. 27 & 28: "Disney Frozen Sing-Along"** (Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee, 2013). Screening of a sing-along version (with on-screen lyrics) of this animated Disney adventure fantasy loosely adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*. Audience members, who are encouraged to dress as their favorite *Frozen* character, or in a costume inspired by the movie, also receive a free bag of interactive props. \$16 (kids under 12, students with ID, seniors, & U.S. veterans; \$13). 11:30 a.m.

**Feb. 29: "Henry V"** (Laurence Olivier, 1944). Olivier stars in his adaptation of Shakespeare's popular history play, a dynamic, challenging, and intermittently sly-humored study of the nature of political power and authority. 7 p.m.

**State Theater.** For complete, updated schedule, see michtheater.org or call 761-8667. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; films before 6 p.m. & midnight movies, \$8).

**Feb. 1 & other dates TBA: "Anomalisa"** (Duke Johnson & Charlie Kaufman, 2015). Stop-motion animated adult comic drama about a man crippled by banality whose life is changed by an extraordinary experience.

**Feb. 3: "Lone Wolf and Cub: Sword of Vengeance"** (Kenji Misumi, 1972). See review, p. 52. Adaptation of Kazuo Koike's manga series about a wandering assassin for hire who is accompanied by his young son. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 10: "Black Jack"** (Osamu Dezaki, 1996). Anime film adapted from Osamu Tezuka's manga about a gifted surgeon who devotes himself to protecting humanity from a race of superhuman beings who want to destroy mankind. German & Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

**Opens Feb. 12: "Where to Invade Next"** (Michael Moore, 2015). Moore playfully "invades" other countries to see what they have to offer.

**Feb. 13: "Romeo + Juliet"** (Baz Luhrmann, 1996). Adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy set in the hip modern suburb of Verona Beach while retaining Shakespeare's language. Leonard DiCaprio, Claire Danes. Midnight.

**Feb. 13: "Fight Club"** (David Fincher, 1999). Bored young men beat each other to a pulp for kicks. Ed Norton, Brad Pitt. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 17: "Bunny Drop"** (Sabu, 2011). Adaptation of Yumi Unita's manga about an unmarried office worker who decides to raise the 6-year-old illegitimate child of his dead grandfather. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

**Feb. 21: "Born Free"** (James Hill, 1966). A northern Kenya game warden and his wife raise 3 orphaned lion cubs, one of which they try to return to the wild. Kids under 12, free. 1:30 p.m.

**Feb. 24: "Boruto: Naruto the Movie"** (Hiroyuki Yamashita, 2015). The most recent film based on Masashi Kishimoto's *Naruto* manga series about adolescent ninjas seeking honor and glory. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

**U-M Center for Chinese Studies Film Series.** FREE. 764-6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 13: "The Chinese Mayor"** (Zhou Hao, 2014). Documentary about the 2-year-long efforts of the mayor of Datong to transform one of China's most polluted cities into a cultural destination, in large part by displacing 500,000 residents to reconstruct the walls of the Old City. Mandarin, subtitles. 7 p.m.

**U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies "Korean Cinema NOW."** Korean, subtitles. FREE. 764-1825. Michigan Theater, 2 p.m.

**Feb. 6: "Tazza: The Hidden Card"** (Hyeong-Cheol Kang, 2014). A young man used as a scapegoat in a gambling deal gone wrong plans his revenge.

★**"Medical Error in Japan: A Subsurface Tangle of Law and Politics":** U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Lecture by University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences public health professor Robert Leflar. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

★**Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** Every Thurs. Performances by area musicians. Feb. 4: Motown songs by Detroit band *In Flight*. Feb. 11: Love songs by popular local acoustic duo *Gemini*. Feb. 18: Musical theater and cabaret songs by vocalist *Katharine Ball*. With organist Andrew Meagher. Feb. 25: Classical violin works by U-M string students. 12:10-1 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★**Coffee Break Concert Series: First Baptist Church.** Dundee-based professional cellist *Paul Friessen-Carper*, performs works by Bach's Cello Suites

no. 1 & no. 2. Refreshments. 12:15 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663-9376.

★**"American Homes":** Pub Club/U-M Hatcher Grad Library. U-M librarian Charles Watkinson leads the inaugural meeting of this new book discussion group. Today they discuss Ryan Ridge's 2014 book that incorporates poetry, prose, and illustrations to explore a cracked narrative of domestic spaces. Coffee, tea, & treats. 3:30-5 p.m., 100 U-M Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 615-3417.

★**"Mrozek on Trial: On the Short Plays of Slawomir Mrozek":** U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Kent State Russian & Polish translation professor Joanna Trzeciak Huss discusses the work of this influential postwar Polish playwright, a onetime Communist Party lackey who later defected to the West. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★**"Leadership and the Value of a Liberal Arts Education":** U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by former Twitter CEO (and U-M grad) Dick Costolo. 4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 998-6251.

★**"The Personal Is Political: The Autobiography of Rose Pastor Stokes":** U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Lecture by U-M history professor Regina Morantz-Sanchez on this American feminist and socialist. 4-6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

★**Shirley Verrett Awards Ceremony:** U-M Center for the Education of Women. Performance by acclaimed operatic soprano *Marcia Porter* in honor of this year's award winner, U-M voice professor emeritus *George Shirley*. The award is named for the late internationally acclaimed opera singer Verrett, also a U-M voice professor. Reception follows. 5 p.m., U-M

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FEBRUARY

NOVIOLET BULAWAYO

Q&A

Thurs, February 11, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Fiction Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

ANGELA FLOURNOY

Q&A

Thurs, February 18, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Fiction Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

SHADRECK CHIKOTI

Q&A

Thurs, February 25, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Fiction Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art



For more information: lsa.umich.edu/writers  
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Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. Reservations required at [cw.umich.edu](mailto:cw.umich.edu). [willids@umich.edu](mailto:willids@umich.edu), 764-6005.

★**"Rashaad Newsome: Reframe":** U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series. Talk by this New York-based multidisciplinary artist who combines collage, sculpture, video, music, computer programming, and performance art to critique the language of power and status. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668-8463.

★**Winter Democratic Rides:** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thurs., Sat., & Sun., Dec.-Mar. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. A similar ride leaves Tues., Thurs., & Fri. at 11 a.m. from the gazebo in downtown Dexter (994-5908), Tues. & Thurs. from Bird Hills Park parking lot (545-0451) on Newport Rd. at 10 a.m., and Fri. from Olson Park (545-0451) on Dhu Varren at Pontiac Tr. at 10 a.m. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. 6:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), 10 a.m. (Sun.), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 (Sat. & Sun.), 662-0205 (Thurs.).

★**Euchre Night:** Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. 7 p.m., Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. \$10. 973-6084, 663-0036.

★**ACBL Bridge:** Ann Arbor City Club. Every Thurs. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$7. 761-6691.

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** Every Sun. & Thurs. Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. 7 p.m.-close (usually midnight), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. Free. [umich.edu/~goclub](http://umich.edu/~goclub)

★**"Antarctica, Frozen Lab":** Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society. Screening of a DVD about scientific projects in Antarctica. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665-5574.

★**"City of Ann Arbor 2016 Sustainable Ann Arbor Forum: Resource Management":** Ann Arbor District Library. The 2nd in a series of 4 monthly forums with city staff and other panelists features discussion of improving Ann Arbor's waste diversion rate and communitywide efforts to reducing different waste streams. Panelists are city environmental coordinator Matthew Naud, U-M sustainability programs coordinator Tracy Artley, Washtenaw County solid waste specialist Noelle Bowman, Food Gatherers CEO Eileen Spring, and Zingerman's managing partner Rodger Bowser. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Emerging Writers: Reading Like a Writer":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local short story writer Alex Kourvo and young adult novelist Bethany Neal discuss valuable writing lessons to be learned from reading our favorite books. For adult and teen (grade 6 & up) fiction and nonfiction writers. Also, Kourvo and Neal host an open house for writers to connect with one another and/or work on their projects at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18. 7-8:45 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Sondheim on Sondheim":** The Encore Musical Theatre Company. Every Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 4-21. Daniel Cooney directs professional actors in James Lapine's musical that celebrates Stephen Sondheim's career. The show includes video footage of interviews with Sondheim. The score is comprised of songs from 19 shows that Sondheim worked on, including *West Side Story*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Passion*, and *Into the Woods*. Cast: Thalia Schramm, Tobin Hissong, Lauren Norris, Daniel Helmer, Peter Crist, Leah Fox, Adam Woolsey, and Kelsey Pohl. 7 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$26 (seniors, \$24; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$22) on Thurs.; \$32 (seniors, \$30; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$28) on Fri. & Sat. eve. \$28 (seniors, \$26; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$24) for all matinees in advance at [theencoretheatre.org](http://theencoretheatre.org) and at the door. \$15 student rush tickets (if available) an hour before showtime. 268-6200.

★**"Closer":** U-M Basement Arts. Feb. 4-6. David Barnes directs students in Patrick Marber's humorous drama that explores the brutal anatomy of modern romance in which a quartet of strangers meet, fall in love, and get caught up in a web of sexual desire and betrayal. 7 p.m. (Feb. 4-6) & 11 p.m. (Feb. 5), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Acting for the Camera Studio (2nd floor), 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. [facebook.com/basementarts](http://facebook.com/basementarts)

★**Israeli Dancing:** Jewish Community Center. Every Thurs. Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed

by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. 7:30-10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (students, free). 971-0990.

★**Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. 7:30-9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 255-5310.

★**Junior Class Voice Recital:** U-M School of Music. Voice majors perform arias and songs. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**Strings Faculty Showcase:** U-M School of Music. Program TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitis (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Momentum":** U-M Dance Company. Feb. 4-7. U-M dance students perform a work by guest artist Camille A. Brown, a renowned NYC-based choreographer who performs with her company at the Power Center on Feb. 13 (see listing). Brown's *City of Rain* is a group work inspired by her late friend Gregory "Blyes" Boomer, a singer and dancer who struggled for many years with an illness that left him paralyzed from the waist down. "Its dynamics are urgent, its multiplicity of incident always striking," says *New York Times* critic Alastair Macaulay in his review of its 2010 premiere. "The dance sometimes drives hard against the more melancholy passages of Jonathan Melville Pratt's original score 'Two Way Dream' (folk-related in its lyricism), and sometimes soft against its crescendo." Also, works by U-M dance professors Amy Chavasse, Bill DeYoung, and Peter Sparling. Chavasse's *Goodbye to Wayward Flesh*, set to a Lonnie Holley score, explores misleading narratives dissolved by unexpected outcomes, and DeYoung's *Cheating, Lying, Stealing* projects the dog-eat-dog dynamics of an office where people will do anything to succeed. Sparling's *Big Weather*, billed as "Busby Berkeley meets complex systems theory," charts the exhausting adaptive strategies of a group when sudden stasis or unexpected shifts alter their flow. It is set to a live performance of Bang on a Can co-founder Michael Gordon's "Timber" by the U-M Percussion Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets \$22 & \$28 (students, \$12) in advance at the Michigan League and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

★**"The Electric Baby":** Kickshaw Theatre. Jan. 28-31 and Feb. 4-7, 10-14, & 18-21. Lynn Lammer directs this new local theater company in Stefanie Zadravec's dark, fantastical, and touching drama about 6 people whose lives intersect after a tragic car accident, forcing each to confront the secrets, hopes, and fears that consume them. The playwright invokes "the imperceptible magic that pervades human existence and the power of myth to assuage sorrow," says a *New York Times* review. Cast: Julia Glander, Peter Carey, Vanessa Sawson, Will Bryson, Mary Dilworth, and Michael Lopetrone. 8 p.m. (Wed.-Sat., except Feb. 13), 3 p.m. (Sat.), 4 p.m. (Sun.), & 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 31), Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Tickets \$20-\$28 (students, \$12) in advance at [kickshaw.brownpapertickets.com](http://kickshaw.brownpapertickets.com) and at the door. (800) 838-3006.

★**"The Odd Couple":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**Mike Green: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Feb. 4-6. This popular comic, winner of the 2004 Michigan Comedy Survivor competition, performs with a nervous energy that regularly explodes into bizarre observations and goofy enlightenments about jumping rope, talking sirens, bar codes, and other pointless things you've never stopped to think about. "If you liked the kid in the lunchroom who made you spit milk out your nose, you'll love Mike Green," says the *Detroit Free Press*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 5 FRIDAY

★**"An Anthropologist Looks at the Public History Job Market":** U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Lecture by Tufts University anthropology professor Cathy Stanton. Noon-2 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

★**"Science as Art":** U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery. Students show and discuss their works that explore scientific principles and concepts. Also, awards presented to exhibit winners. 2-5 p.m., 100 U-M Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-7491.

★**"Contrapunctus":** U-M German Department. Berlin-based Afro-German writer Michael Götting reads (in German) from his debut novel, set in Berlin in 2002, that depicts the lives of 4 Afro-Germans and the effect of the political atmosphere of the time on



# classical piano

## Igor Levit

*Highly evolved*

Back in December, pianist Igor Levit took on J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations at Manhattan's Park Avenue Armory for a run of seven concerts presented in collaboration with performance artist Marina Abramovic. In addition to seating in the round, sunset lighting, and a slowly rotating stage, what made these Bach recitals unique was the fact that each audience member was required to leave all personal electronic devices in an individually assigned locker, then to sit for a full thirty minutes before the show wearing noise-canceling headphones, clearing the mind to fully engage with the music. While no one attending Levit's UMS debut at Hill Auditorium on February 6 will be asked to do either of these things, sitting still with your eyes closed would be an excellent way to prepare for what promises to be an unusually rewarding experience.

Levit was born in 1987 about 250 miles east of Moscow in Gorky, just a few years before the Soviet Union collapsed and the city resumed its historic name, Nizhny Novgorod; he has lived in Hanover, Germany, since moving there with his family in 1995. Over the past couple of years, he has garnered unqualified praise for recordings and public performances of exceptional clarity and depth. Watching Levit at the piano can be a completely absorbing experience. During slowly paced passages, you might find yourself marveling with him at the spaces between the tones, as silence becomes a golden emanation in the air surrounding the man and his instrument.

Levit will inaugurate his first Ann Arbor appearance with J.S. Bach's Partita No. 4, a work originally conceived and designed for the harpsichord, followed by Schubert's colorful set of miniatures, the *Six moments musicaux*. From there he will plunge headlong into Beethoven's Sonata No. 17, that eddying whirlpool born of impermanence, and Proko-



FELIX BROEDE

fiev's Sonata No. 7, during which conventional tropes are mischievously exaggerated and even distorted. This work, composed in war-torn Russia in 1944, also contains one of Prokofiev's loveliest slow movements, rooted in the romantic melancholia of Robert Schumann.

Levit, an astonishingly skilled interpreter of classical piano repertoire, is equally adept at navigating modern works of daunting cerebral complexity. Here is living proof that established musical traditions do not exist in some ossified state like prehistoric insects suspended in Baltic amber. Their durable intuitive logic is clearly detectable in shape-shifting works of more recent vintage. Levit has explored that continuum since the age of fifteen, when he chose as his mentor composer and pianist Frederic Rzewski, a respected associate of two pioneers of sky's-the-limit creativity, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Anthony Braxton. Levit has proudly acknowledged Rzewski's influence by releasing a three-CD set combining Bach's Goldberg and Beethoven's Diabelli variations with Rzewski's variations on the Chilean socialist anthem "The People United Will Never Be Defeated." Levit's highly evolved combination of versatility and virtuosity is refreshing and encouraging. The opportunity to see him perform in person is too good to pass up.

—arwulf arwulf

their relationships. 2-4 p.m., 3308 MLB. 812 E. Washington. Free. 764-8018.

★**"The Making of Asian America: A History":** U-M American Culture Department. Talk by University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center director Rudolph Vecoli. 4-6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 763-1460.

★**44th Winter Carnival: Chelsea American Legion Post 31.** Feb. 5-7. Three days of cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter fun (weather permitting) at Cavanaugh Lake. Also, a **euchre tournament** (\$5 entry fee; prizes) on Fri. at 7 p.m., and a **Michigan wine tasting** (noon-3 p.m.) and **dancing** to classic and contemporary rock by the Manchester band **Star 69** (8:30-11:30 p.m.) on Sat. The weekend competitive **ice fishing derby** (weather permitting) runs 7 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.) & 7 a.m.-noon (Sun.). Refreshments, breakfasts, and lunches available. Raffle. 4 p.m.-midnight (Fri.), 7 a.m.-midnight (Sat.), & 7 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), American Legion Hall, 1700 Ridge Rd. (off Cavanaugh Lake Rd. from Kalmbach Rd. north from I-94 exit 156), Chelsea. Free admission. 475-1964.

★**"Winter Evening at the Farm": Cobblestone Farm Association Fundraiser.** Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse, illuminated by candles, and period music by Cobblestone docents. Also, demos of mechanical sock making, spinning, and weaving. 5-9 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2 (kids, \$1; family, \$5; kids under 3, free). 794-8120.

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited for a dinner featuring locally produced foods, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. 6:30-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$10 (family, \$25). Reservations required at [jewishculturalsociety.org](http://jewishculturalsociety.org). 975-9872.

★**"A Night of Wine and Chocolate": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Wine and chocolate tastings led by several area sellers. Also, hands-on activities, demos, grilled cheese sandwiches from the Grillcheezerie, and Shutterbooth photos. 6:30-9:30 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$30 (members, \$25) in advance at [aahom.org](http://aahom.org). 995-5439.

★**Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing).** All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 663-2037.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Feb. 5 & 19. Readings by U-M creative writing grad students. Tonight: poet **Josh Berg** and fiction writer **Scott Seres**. 7 p.m., U-MMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710.

★**"Rock the 80s Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Funky Frosty Friday.** All invited to wear spandex and skate to hair bands and monster ballads. Prizes for best costume. 7:15-8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6234.

★**Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Feb. 5 & 19. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of former Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America board member Dwight Ebaugh's lecture "Between Death and Rebirth." Familiarity with Rudolf Steiner's basic ideas is helpful. 7:30-9 p.m., location TBA. Free. 944-4903.

★**"Guys and Dolls": Huron High Players.** Feb. 5-7. Students perform Frank Loesser's popular musical based on Damon Runyon's stories and characters. Set in New York City in the 1930s, the action focuses on 2 contrasting romances, one a long-running liaison between a nightclub singer and a professional gambler and the other an unlikely affair between a high roller and a Salvation Army sister. The lively score includes such classics as "Luck Be a Lady," "A Bushel and a Peck," "If I Were a Bell," and "Sit Down, You're

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 FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN



Rocking the Boat." 7:30 p.m. (Feb. 5 & 6) & 3 p.m. (Feb. 7), Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance at showtix4u.com and at the door. 994-2040.

"My Fair Lady": Burns Park Players. Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5 & 6. Burns Park Elementary School students, parents, and friends perform Lerner & Loewe's perennially popular musical (based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*) about an uneducated Cockney girl who is transformed into a high-class lady through the offices of a British speech professor. The popular score includes "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," "With a Little Bit of Luck," and "I Could Have Danced All Night." 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5) & 4 p.m. (Feb. 6), Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Tickets \$15 (patron seats, \$30) in advance at showtix4u.com beginning Jan. 15 and (if available) at the door. burnsparkplayers.org

"Prospect High: Brooklyn": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5 & 6. Daniel Cantor directs students in Daniel Robert Sullivan's new play based on the experiences of a group of New York City high school students that explores themes of gun violence, trans acceptance, deep friendships, self-harm, and casual racism. The action concerns a day in the life of 4 intelligent students and a comically apathetic teacher and results in a disturbing conclusion. PHS is one of a handful of schools selected to premiere the play outside of New York City. 7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets \$12 (students, seniors, & PHS staff, \$8) in advance at showtix4u.com. ptguild.org, 994-2191.

Sketch Comedy Revue: Greenhills School Voodoo Theater Company. Feb. 5 & 6. Greenhills students present comedy sketches they've written and produced. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. \$5 donation. 769-4010.

★EMU Symphony Orchestra: EMU Music Department. Kevin Miller conducts this music student orchestra in a program TBA. 8 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★"Timeless": U-M Symphony Band. Michael Haithcock conducts this ensemble of music majors in a program highlighted by compositions inspired by philosophical and scientific truths. Program: Grantham's *Phantastiske Spirites*, Michael Colgrass's *Winds of Nagual*, Mozart's *Divertimento in E-flat*, Steven Mackey's *Ohm*, and Cailliet's arrangement of Wagner's *Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral*. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

"Labyrinth": Latitude 49 (Concordia University). This ensemble of U-M music grad students performs works by contemporary composers, including Reinhold Moya, Pierre Jalbert, Joseph Bozich, Natalie Moller, Virgil Moorefield, and Jennifer Higdon. 8 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$15 (seniors & students, \$8). 995-7537.

"Wine, Women, and Song XIV": Kerrytown Concert House. Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 5 & 6. An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers, accompanied by pianist R. Mackenzie Lewis. Singers include Deanna Relyea, Laurie Atwood, Linda Beaupre, Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Shelley MacMillan, Susan Shipman, Wendy Bloom, Monica Swartout-Bebow, Roxy Diederich, and Kathy Vaughn. Lisa Tucker-Gray directs. Wine is served. This popular event usually sells out. 8 p.m. (Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5 & 6) and 3 p.m. (Jan. 31), KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$20-\$50. Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse, 769-2999.

Taylor Mac: University Musical Society. Feb. 5 & 6. This acclaimed cabaret singer who performs in glittering, over-the-top drag presents his new show, "A 24-Decade History of American Popular Music," an alternate version of American histories told through a gleefully subversive mash-up of performance art and song. More than lipgloss and glamour, Mac's performances are praised for exceptional wit and intelligence. Tonight's installment of what will eventually become a 24-hour extravaganza draws on music from 1956-1986, with segments devoted to "Songs Popular on the Bus/The March on Washington," "Stonewall Songs," and "Songs Popular in the Backroom." Recommended for mature audiences. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$40 & \$50 in advance at tickets.ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova. Every Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 5-28. Daniel Walker directs Sebastian Gerstner in Lee Blessing's one-man absurdist comedy inspired by Senator Jesse Helms' 1989 campaign against the NEA for supporting artists engaged in "anti-Christian bigotry." An artist seeks revenge on a politician who won a Senate seat by demonizing his art by attempting to kidnap the senator's charismatic dog, which the artist plans to retrain for a performance art piece. Things go awry in a way that brings the artist closer to the senator than he could have imagined. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-

Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Tickets (if available) are pay what you can afford, in advance at theatrenova.org and at the door. Members (\$75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635-8450.

Civic Improv Ensemble Showcase: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Feb. 5 & 6. The AACT's 3 improv troupes—CSI: Ann Arbor, Luxury Possum, and Dearly Beloved—perform unique sets inspired by audience suggestions. The troupes focus on different styles of improv comedy, ranging from game-based improv à la *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* to long-form scenic improv popularized by groups like the Upright Citizens Brigade. Last fall's shows sold out. 8 & 10 p.m., A2CT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Tickets \$10 in advance and (if available) at the door. 971-2228.

"Momentum": U-M Dance Company. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★"Closer": U-M Basement Arts. See 4 Thursday, 7 & 11 p.m.

"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Every Fri. & Sat. This new local theater's improv company, The League of Pointless Improvisers, leads an array of experienced local improvisers in sketch comedy shows. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Sat.), Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$10 in advance at pointlessimprov.com and at the door. info@pointlessbrew.com

Mike Green: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Every Fri. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. \$5 (students with ID, \$4; \$1 discount for AACTMAD members). 417-9857.

**6 SATURDAY**

★Great Lakes National Ocean Sciences Bowl: Michigan Sea Grant. High school students compete in quiz bowl-style rounds of questions about ocean and Great Lakes biology, chemistry, geology, physics, technology, history, and economics. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., U-M Dana Bldg., 440 Church. Free. 214-7204.

★"Global Scorching and Climate Calamity": Public Citizens of Washtenaw (formerly Gray Panthers of Washtenaw). Talk by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom national officer Odile Hugonot Haber and other local activists report on the recent UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. 9:45 a.m.-noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 484-1628.

★Saturday Morning Border to Border Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Sat. 22-mile ride, at various paces along the Border-to-Border Trail, from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, to decide where to eat lunch. 10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 662-0205.

Living Lab Showcase: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. U-M child development researchers discuss the work they've done at the hands-on museum, administering short tests to kids who visit the museum. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Feb. 6) & noon-4 p.m. (Feb. 7), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

"Introduction to Organic Gardening": Project Grow. Project Grow instructor Royer Held discusses the basics of organic gardening, from care of the soil to growing vegetables. 10 a.m.-noon, Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$5. Space limited; preregistration requested. 996-3169.

★Spanish Playgroup: Manzanitas Spanish Immersion Preschool. Stories and songs in Spanish. Geared toward kids age 6 months to 5 years, accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Manzanitas, 2626 Packard. Free. 975-9104.

★"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department. Feb. 6, 13, & 20. Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M and visiting scholars. Feb. 6: International Council on Clean Transportation senior fellow John German on "How Volkswagen Got Caught Cheating." Feb. 13: U-M physics professor Keith Riles on "Gravitational Waves: Einstein's Audacious Prediction." Feb. 20: Riles on "The Hunt for Gravitational Waves: Was Einstein Right?" 10:30 a.m., 170 & 182 Weiser Hall (formerly the Dennison Bldg.), 500 Church. Free. 764-4437.

"Little Peeps PlayGround": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Every Sat. Performances, drama activities,



and crafts geared toward kids in grades pre-K to 5. Themes include "Dreams" (Feb. 6), "Seasons" (Feb. 20), and "Fantasy" (Feb. 27). On Feb. 13, Spinning Dot Theater performs *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing*, Finegan Kruckemeyer's play that combines word, music, and movement to tell the heartfelt story of some adventurous triplets. 10:30 a.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$7 in advance at [pointlessimprov.com](http://pointlessimprov.com) and at the door. [info@pointlessbrew.com](mailto:info@pointlessbrew.com)

★**Children's Storytime:** Barnes & Noble. Every Sat. Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Out of the Water and Back Again":** U-M Natural History Museum. Every Sat. & Sun. Hands-on 20-minute interactive demo exploring various aspects of evolution, from where life began and how it changes to the reason whale fossils have feet. Geared toward adults and kids age 5 & up. 11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

★**"Storytime at the Museum":** UMMA. U-M student docents and UMMA staffers read stories related to the current exhibit, *Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s*. Followed by an art activity. For kids ages 4-7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. 11:15 a.m.-noon, UMMA (meet in front of the museum store), 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

**U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium.** Every Sat. & Sun. Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. *The Sky Tonight* (Sat. 11:30 a.m., Sat. & Sun. 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.) is an exploration of the current night sky. *Cosmic Colors* (Sat. 12:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual journey across the entire electromagnetic spectrum that explores the reasons for color, the nature of X-rays, and more. *Light Years from Andromeda* (Sat. & Sun. 2:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual show narrated by *Star Trek* actor Michael Dorn that shows the changes that occurred on Earth during the 2.8 million years it took a light beam to travel from Andromeda. Various times, U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764-0478.

**Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club.** Every Sat. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$7 per player; free for spectators. \$7 vehicle entrance fee. 449-4300.

★**"Winter Ecology Walk":** Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Mark Irish leads a hike through the park to learn about the habits and habitats that enable its animal life to survive the winter. 1 p.m., Hudson Mills activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$5 (kids, \$3). Preregistration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★**"Yarn-Wrapped Hearts":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for 3rd-graders through adults. 1-2 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Family Program: Firekeepers":** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission Winter FunFest. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance shows how to build an outdoor fire in winter. 2-4 p.m., County Farm Park, meet at the Medford Rd. lot. Free. 971-6337, ext. 335.

★**Dinosaur Tours:** U-M Natural History Museum. Every Sat. & Sun. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

★**"Buhr Blitz":** Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Public skating, with a family-oriented program of games and contests. Prizes. In case of inclement weather, the event is rescheduled for Feb. 27. 2-4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for Ann Arbor residents. Skate rentals (\$3) available. 794-6234.

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Sat. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Attendees asked to call ahead if there's inclement weather. 2:30-5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. [juggling@umich.edu](mailto:juggling@umich.edu), [umich.edu/~juggle](http://umich.edu/~juggle), 761-1115.

★**"Storybook Crafts: Junie B. Jones":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 1-5 invited to do a craft activity related to Barbara Clark's books about the adventures of a precocious first grader. In conjunction with the Theatreworks USA's production of *Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School* at the Michigan Theater (see 13 Saturday listing). 3-4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Detroit Is: An Essay in Photographs":** Nicola's Books. Detroit photographer J. Gordon Rodwan

discusses his book of photographs that offer his personal perspective on what it's like to live in Detroit. The book also includes an intro essay and poems by the photographer's son, John G. Rodwan Jr., who is also on hand to discuss the book. Signing. 3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**"Strum & Drum":** Oz's Music Environment. Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free Kids Open Stage. 3-4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. \$15 per family. 662-8283.

★**Pittsfield Open Band:** Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Feb. 6 & 20. All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*, Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection*, and Bill Matthieson's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. 3-6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 994-9307.

★**"My Fair Lady":** Burns Park Players. See 5 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**"U-M Jazz Day":** U-M School of Music. Performance by U-M jazz faculty members and guest artists, including saxophonist Andrew Bishop, drummer Sean Dobbins, bassist Robert Hurst, trumpeter Bill Lucas, Brooklyn guitarist Miles Okazaki, and pianists Benny Green and Ellen Rowe. The program begins with a Q&A on the U-M jazz program. Preceded noon-4:15 p.m. by an afternoon of masterclasses and jam sessions for middle and high school students. 4:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**28th Annual "Big Rack Night":** This annual contest for white-tailed deer hunters attracts around 400 people. The top award winners in the firearms, archery, muzzle loading, ladies, and youth divisions are invited to go onstage, display their antlers, and swap hunting stories. Also, talks by guest speakers with unusual or outstanding racks. Additional overall prize for "biggest rack" (number, size, and mass of points on the 2 horns). Light dinner for sale. 7 p.m. (doors open 5 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free admission. 439-7919.

★**"Listening to the Agave":** U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. U-M jazz professor and percussionist Michael Gould and flutist Michael Chikuzen perform original works composed for the shakuhachi flute that was created from the stalk of the American agave that bloomed at Matthaei in the summer of 2014. 7 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Tickets \$30 (members, \$25) in advance at [mbgna.umich.edu](mailto:mbgna.umich.edu). 647-7600.

★**Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic Concert & Contra Dance:** Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Performance by this nationally renowned ensemble of Saline high school students with an energetic, polished stage show whose repertoire includes music, song, and dance from the traditions of American folk fiddle, bluegrass, jazz, Western swing, and Celtic music. Followed at 8 p.m. by contra dancing to live music by Bowhunter. With caller Michael Hamilton. Beginners welcome; no partner needed. Bring clean shoes for dancing. Kids age 11 & up welcome. 7-11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$10 (members, \$9; students, \$5). 769-1052.

★**"Closer":** U-M Basement Arts. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Guys and Dolls":** Huron High Players. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Prospect High: Brooklyn":** Pioneer High School Theater Guild. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Milonga:** U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Feb. 6 & 20. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. 8 p.m.-midnight, Michigan Union Anderson Room. \$10 (members, \$5). [umich.edu/~matc](http://umich.edu/~matc)

★**"Desert Paradise":** The Neutral Zone Teen Advisory Council Fundraiser. Live music by local teens, a silent auction, appetizers, and dessert. 8-11 p.m., Neutral Zone B-Side, 310 E. Washington. Tickets \$20 in advance & at the door. [sharonda@neutral-zone.org](mailto:sharonda@neutral-zone.org), 214-9995.

★**Igor Levit:** University Musical Society. See review, p. 55. Called "a force-field of concentrated musical energy" by *The Guardian*, this Russian-German pianist received effusive praise for his debut album of Beethoven's late piano sonatas. Tonight he performs Bach's Partita no. 4 in D major, Schubert's *Six Moments Musicaux*, Beethoven's Sonata no. 17 in D minor, and Prokofiev's Sonata no. 7 in B-flat major. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$12-\$50 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org) & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**"Wine, Women, and Song XIV":** Kerrytown Concert House. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**Taylor Mac:** University Musical Society. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Momentum":** U-M Dance Company. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

# COMING SOON!

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**ROMEO + JULIET** (1996)

FEB. 15  
**THRONE OF BLOOD** (1957)

FEB. 22  
**HAMLET** (1996)

FEB. 29  
**HENRY V** (1944)

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FILMS DRAWN FROM THE PAGES OF JAPANESE MANGA  
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FEB. 3  
**LONE WOLF AND CUB: SWORD OF VENGEANCE\*** (1972)  
LIVE ACTION!

FEB. 10  
**BLACK JACK\*** (1996)  
ANIME!

FEB. 17  
**BUNNY DROP\*** (2011)  
LIVE ACTION!

FEB. 24  
**BORUTO: NARUTO THE MOVIE\*** (2015)  
ANIME!

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# ANN ARBOR YPSILANTI READS 2016

## ONE BOOK MANY CONVERSATIONS



# CRISTINA HENRÍQUEZ

TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 23  
7-9 PM

AUTHOR OF  
*The Book of Unknown Americans*  
A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2014

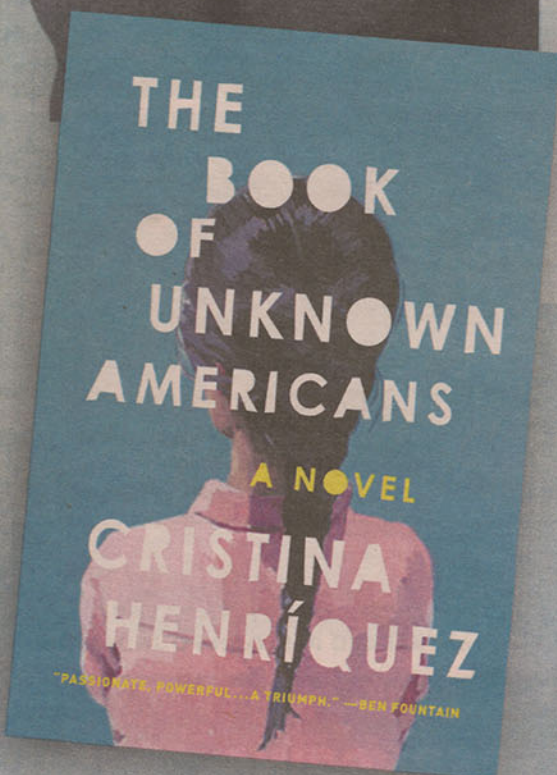
## TOWSLEY AUDITORIUM

Washtenaw Community College  
Morris Lawrence Building  
4800 E. Huron River Drive | Ann Arbor

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

Cristina Henríquez's *The Book of Unknown Americans* is a stunning novel of hopes and dreams, guilt and love—a book that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be American.

Author Cristina Henríquez makes a special appearance to discuss her work and book *The Book of Unknown Americans*, which is the focus of Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2016. Books will be for sale and community organizations will have resource information available. Ms. Henríquez will sign books after her presentation.



Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads is a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book.



[aaypsireads.org](http://aaypsireads.org)

“Sondheim on Sondheim”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

“The Electric Baby”: Kickshaw Theatre. See 4 Thursday. Tonight's show is followed by a reception and talk by representatives from the Kite Network, a local nonprofit committed to grief education and support. 3 & 8 p.m.

“The Odd Couple”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

“Chesapeake”: Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Mike Green: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Latin Dance Party: Dance Revolution. Feb. 6 & 20. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. Preceded by beginner (7 p.m.) and intermediate/advanced (8 p.m.) salsa lessons. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main (above Elmo's). \$12 (students with ID, \$8). [Facebook.com/A2DanceRevolution/info](http://Facebook.com/A2DanceRevolution/info)

## 7 SUNDAY

★“Sundays with Gelek Rimpoche”: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Sun. Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. 11 a.m.–noon, Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.

Arbor Opera Theatre: Jewish Community Center Sunday Brunch Concert Series. Members of this polished local opera company perform songs by the “Jewish B's”—Bernstein, Berlin and Blickstein. All invited. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 includes brunch. Reservations required. 971–0990.

★“Twinkletoes”: Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program, with singing and dancing, for kids ages 2–5. 1–1:30 p.m., AADL youth story corner, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.

★“Dancing Babies”: Ann Arbor District Library. Local composer-percussionist and teacher Aron Kaufman presents a program of music and movement for babies through 5-year-olds. 1–1:40 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.

★“Young Rembrandts: Power of Drawing”: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Sat. All kids in grades 1–5 invited to explore pastel, colored pencil, and marker techniques while learning drawing skills that lay the foundation for visual arts, including illustration, design, fine art composition, and cartooning. Participants can attend as many sessions as they like. 1–2:30 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (4th-floor meeting room on Feb. 7 & Malletts Creek Branch on Feb. 28), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.

★“Engaging with Art”: UMMA. Every Sun. Docents lead tours of the UMMA collection, with themes based on their own interests. 1–2 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Illinois. The U-M also has games this month against Wisconsin (Feb. 11, 7 p.m.) and Penn State (Feb. 20, noon). 2 p.m., Crisler Center. \$6 & \$8 (groups of 10 or more, \$3 each). 764–0247.

★“Kerry Tales: Sweet Hearts for Mother Goose”: Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.

Tour: Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's Creamery staff lead a tour of the facility and show how Zingerman's cheeses and gelato are made. Tastings. 2–3 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$10. Reservations required. 929–0500.

“Build Your Own Telescope”: Winter Nature Programs: Waterloo Natural History Association. Local astronomy buff Meg Gower helps participants make their own telescope. Materials fee: \$8. 2–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. \$2 (families, \$5). Space limited; preregistration required. \$10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.

★“Sinister Snowmen”: Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make a sinister-looking sock snowman. Materials provided. 2–3 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.

★“Make a Valentine for Your Valentine”: Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited to make a valentine card for a loved one or to share with a local hospital. 2–5 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.

★“Computer Skills”: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Sun. GameStart staff present hands-on introductions to various computer skills for kids in grades 3–8. Feb. 7: “Minecraft Monster AI.” Learn to make a brave companion for your Minecraft self



# fiction

## NoViolet Bulawayo

From Zimbabwe to Kalamazoo

There's a good chance that if our era is remembered for any of its literature, it will be as the moment that opened up to new influences on writing done in English. Despite recent nativist screaming on cable news networks, our literary institutions have lately shown a greater openness to artists who have come to us from different places and languages.

I've been trying to keep up with the work of young African writers, several of whom have spent time in our state and have gone on to international acclaim. None has a greater achievement than NoViolet Bulawayo. Her autobiographical first novel, *We Need New Names*, short-listed last year for the Man Booker Prize, has a structure that reflects both the action and the growth of Darling, its main character.

The first half of the novel follows Darling and her group of young friends, all under ten, as they run through Paradise, their Zimbabwean neighborhood, stealing guavas, pilfering what they can from the abandoned house of former Rhodesian whites, watching the country's political collapse without understanding its causes or results, and finding what joy they can amidst poverty, sickness, and hopelessness. They jump rope like kids everywhere, but after their school closes, they also invent their own games to fill the empty hours, like "Find bin Laden."

After that extraordinary evocation of a lost African childhood, Bulawayo interrupts her narrative with a sad but lyrical hymn to the contemporary diaspora: "Look at them leaving in droves, the children of the land, just look at them leaving in droves ... Moving, running, emigrating, going, deserting, walking, quitting, flying, fleeing—to all over, to countries near and far, to countries unheard of, to countries whose names they cannot pronounce. They are leaving in droves." After passing through "Destroyedmichygen"



(Detroit) Darling finds herself living with an aunt in Kalamazoo. The contradiction to her homeland is as stark and as troubled as you might imagine.

The second half of *We Need New Names* follows Darling through her teenage years in Kalamazoo, where she never quite feels at home. She is a good student who works two or three jobs to help support her aunt's family and to send a little money back to Zimbabwe. Like her American counterparts, she is sucked in to social media, but her life is different from theirs. Although she works hard to learn a precise, unaccented American English, she knows her English will always be different. Africa, Zimbabwe, and Paradise remain at the center of her imagination. When her new American neighbors ask what the displaced Africans left behind, the losses cannot be hidden: "Our smiles melted like dying shadows and we wept; wept for our blessed, wretched country ... wept like widows, wept like orphans."

NoViolet Bulawayo's novel is a tragic and essential addition to that great ongoing American tradition—the story of immigration. She reads from *We Need New Names* at UMMA on Thursday, February 11.

—Keith Taylor

or a new and challenging monster to face. Feb. 14: "Roblox Programming." Learn how to combine elements of art, design, math, and physics to make your own video game using Roblox Studio editor. Feb. 21: "Minecraft CodeMaze." Learn to make a creative, powerful spell for a Minecraft magic wand. Feb. 28: "Unity Mario Levels." Learn to use the Unity Development Kit to make your own Mario-style game. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

**Contact Improv.** Feb. 7, 21, & 28. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. 2-4 p.m., SOMA, 218 N. Fourth Ave., ste. 204. \$5-\$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604-4416.

**"Momentum": U-M Dance Company.** See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

**"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova.** See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

**"Dr. Petty's Pain Relief for Dogs": Nicola's Books.** Michigan veterinarian Michael Petty discusses his book about how to determine whether a dog is in pain and the traditional and holistic treatments that are available. Signing. 3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**"New Technologies and Victorian Society": UMMA.** U-M curator Carole McNamara discusses the current exhibit of early British photographs from the museum's permanent collection. 3 p.m., UMMA Photography Gallery, 525 S. State. Free, but preregistration required by emailing

umma-program-registration@umich.edu (include date & title of program in the subject line). 764-0395.

**"Guys and Dolls": Huron High Players.** See 5 Friday. 3 p.m.

**"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 4 Thursday. 4 p.m.

**Project Trio: Community Music School of Ann Arbor 25th Anniversary Concert.** This Brooklyn-based chamber music ensemble performs their own genre-blending originals and arrangements of works by composers such as Charles Mingus, Dave Brubeck, Tchaikovsky, Thelonious Monk, and Guns N' Roses. Also, performances by CMS classical and jazz students. Preceded at 4 p.m. by refreshments and a silent auction. 5 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$40 (students, \$25; youth age 18 & under, \$20; \$100 VIP tickets include reserved seating, 2 drink tickets, and a signed Project Trio CD) in advance at aa-spa.org/events/25th\_anniversary\_benefit\_concert. info@aa-spa.org, 213-2000.

**★Ann Arbor Morris.** Every Sun. All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse (off S. State across from the airport). Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 717-1569.

**"Ann Arbor Community Sing": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All invited to join this monthly gathering to sing songs from the various branches of American folk music. 7-9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5. 794-6250.

**Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** Feb. 7 & 21. All poets invited to compete in a poetry slam judged by a panel randomly chosen from the audience. The program begins with a poetry open mike and (occasionally) a short set by a featured poet. 7-9 p.m. (sign up begins

at 6:30 p.m.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. \$5 suggested donation. A2poetry.com

**"The Open Stage": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** Every Sun. All performers invited to showcase their talents. 7 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Free admission. Registration available at goo.gl/forms/1o9FE7Bv57. info@pointlessbrew.com

**★African American Pride: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Music for Meditation.** The St. Andrew's adult choir and guest pianist Leah Claiborne present a concert of choral and piano music by celebrated African American composers including Adolphus Hailstork, Moses Hogan, R. Nathaniel Dett, and William Grant Still. 7:15-8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

**"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a drum circle led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. Bring a drum or use one provided. 7:30-9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$5 suggested donation. 480-1219.

**★2nd Annual Concerto Competition: Ann Arbor Camerata.** U-M music majors perform works TBA. 7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. (904) 252-5016, (716) 445-9896.

**"Stage Time": Emergent Arts.** Feb. 7 & 21 (different programs). Variety show of comedy, music, and other acts. Tonight: Local comic Mark Sweetman emcees for several Midwest stand-up comics. 7:30 p.m., The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Tickets \$10 in advance at emergentarts.com and at the door. 985-0875.

**Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M.** Feb. 7, 14, & 21. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom (Feb. 7 & 21) & Michigan League Ballroom (Feb. 14). \$5 (\$10 includes lessons). 763-6984.

**The UNclub Open Mike: Emergent Arts.** Feb. 7 & 21. Performances by aspiring and experienced local comics. Emcee is Mark Sweetman. 9 p.m., The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. \$5 suggested donation. 985-0875.

## 8 MONDAY

**★"Soda, Love, and Public Health in Mexico City: A Bio-ethnography": U-M Science, Technology, & Society Program.** Talk by U-M anthropology professor Elizabeth Roberts. 4-5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch, 435 S. State. Free. 763-2066.

**★"Cutting Water with a Knife: Refugees and Europe's Mediterranean Question": U-M Center for European Studies Conversations on Europe.** Talk by University of Notre Dame anthropology professor Maurizio Albahari. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

**★"Policy Talk": U-M Ford School of Public Policy Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy.** Talk by U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. 4-5:30 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615-3893.

**U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Maryland & EMU.** The U-M also has a meet this month against MSU (Feb. 14, 2 p.m.). 7 p.m., Crisler Center. \$6 (groups of 10 & more, \$3 each; kids age 5 & under, free). 764-0247.

**★"Textiles in the Collection of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** Talk by U-M museum docents. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. 7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. annarborfiberarts@gmail.com

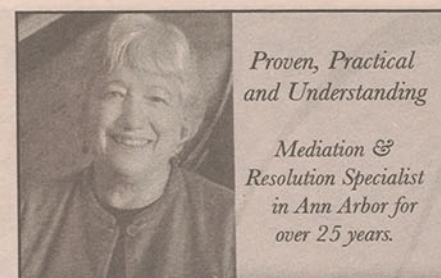
**★"Lincoln's T-mails": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Belleville storyteller and Abe Lincoln reenactor Fred Priebe discusses Lincoln's use of telegraphs during the Civil War. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Administrative Bldg. Education Center Exhibition Room, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750-2741.

**★Garth Greenwell: Literati Bookstore.** This award-winning Louisville writer reads from *What Belongs to You*, his debut novel, set in Bulgaria, about an American teacher whose relationship with a charismatic young hustler is by turns tender and violent. As he struggles with his own fraught history and southern childhood, he notices unnerving similarities between his past and Bulgaria's. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**★"An Evening of World Premieres": University Symphony Orchestra.** U-M student conductors direct music students in this annual concert of works by U-M student composers. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

## 9 TUESDAY

**"Hot Chocolate": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to learn about chocolate from tree to truffle, sip hot cocoa, and



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★“Turkey: At the Crossroads of the World Once Again”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by WSU Near Eastern & Asian studies lecturer Saeed Khan. Sixth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. 10–11:30 a.m., Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. \$65 (members, \$45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. \$10 per lecture for members. 998-9351.

★“Greece and the Eurozone: Where To?": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Talk by Yale University political science professor Stathis Kalyvas. 4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★“The Jim Crow Routine: Everyday Performances of Race and the End of Segregation in Mississippi”: U-M Authors Forum. U-M American culture professor Stephen Berrey and U-M Afroamerican and African studies professor Angela Dillard discuss Berrey's new book. 5:30–7 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-3166.

★Story Time: Bookbound. Every Tues. & Sat. beginning Feb. 9. Linda Zimmer reads seasonal stories for kids age 6 & under. 6 p.m. (Tues.) & 11 a.m. (Sat.), Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

★“Dinner & a Movie”: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice Latin America Task Force. Screening of *The Empire Files*, a new documentary about the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas), a controversial combat training school for Latin American soldiers located at Fort Benning, GA. Dinner from Pilar's Tamales. 6:30–9 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. \$7 includes dinner. Reservations required at [icpj-dinner-and-a-movie.eventbrite.com](http://icpj-dinner-and-a-movie.eventbrite.com). 663-1870.

★Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. All age 21 & over invited to discuss *Roadside Picnic*, Arkady and Boris Strugatsky's 1971 novel about the aftermath of a 2-day alien visitation. 7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764-2553.

★“Opportunities for Veterans: A Look at Housing, Employment and Your Rights”: Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion with Michigan Ability Partners social workers Rebecca Rowland and Heather Popkey, EMU student and U.S. Army veteran Sterling Meeuwen, Community Action Network deputy director Derrick Miller, former U.S. Army JAG attorney and federal prosecutor Peter Clark, and VA Health Care System (Ann Arbor) Transition & Care Management program manager Martina Wells. Held in conjunction with the current AADL exhibit, “Always Lost: A Meditation on War” (see Galleries). 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★“Permaculture from the Roots Up: Community Care”: Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by local certified permaculture teacher and People's Food Co-op marketing coordinator Bridget O'Brien. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327-4555.

★Travis Mulhauser: Literati Bookstore. This Michigan-born North Carolina-based writer reads from *Sweetgirl*, his debut novel about a headstrong teenager navigating the hard-luck terrain of northern Michigan as she looks for her mother, an addict who's gone missing. Novelist Brock Clarke calls it, “A riveting novel ... far, far funnier than it has any right to be.” Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★“This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate”: Huron Valley Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss Naomi Klein's book. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-1157.

★EMU Percussion Ensemble: EMU Music Department. John Dorsey directs this music-student ensemble in a program of works in an eclectic mix of rhythms and instrumental timbres. 7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★John Sampen: U-M School of Music. Performance by this leading concert saxophonist, who is currently a professor at Bowling Green State University. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

## 10 WEDNESDAY

★“Nature Tales”: Leslie Science and Nature Center. Feb. 10 & 13. All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a reading of *Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen's story about a little girl who goes owling with her father one winter night. After the reading, the kids go outside to learn owl calls and find out where owls may be sleeping in the LSNC woods. 10–11 a.m. (Wed.)

& 11 a.m.–noon (Sat.), Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 (members, \$3) per child. 997-1533.

★“Drum Me a Story”: Wild Swan Theater. This award-winning local children's theater presents its original collection of African trickster folk tales, including “Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock” and “How the Turtle Got Its Shell.” In celebration of African American History Month. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage “touch” tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Suitable for kids in grades K–4. Note: The Feb. 10 & 11 shows are sold out. 10 a.m. (Feb. 10–12), noon (Feb. 12), & 11 a.m. (Feb. 13), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$12 (seniors age 60 & over and kids, \$8) in advance at [wildswantheater.org](http://wildswantheater.org) & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 995-0530.

★Noon Lectures: U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Feb. 10 & 24. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. Feb. 10: Miami University (Ohio) anthropology professor Neringa Klumbyte discusses “Of Secrecy and Laughter: Aesthetics, Governance, and the Covert Sphere in Soviet Lithuania (1964–85).” Feb. 24: University of Copenhagen SAXO Institute postdoc Zlatko Jovanovic on “Sarajevo, My Dearest City, We Fixed You for the Olympics”: Representations of Sarajevo, 1979–87.” Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★Brown Bag Recital Series: U-M School of Music. 30-minute concert by local organist Timothy Huth and flutist Jonathan Silles. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish; food available at the Crossroads Café. 12:15 p.m., U-M SPH Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615-3204.

★“The Odd Couple”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★“Bad News, Good Democracy”: U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M communication studies & political science professor Stuart Soroka. Reception follows. 4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 998-6251.

★U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies Lecture Series. Feb. 10 & 24. Lecture by visiting scholars. Feb. 10: Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology history professor Kyung Deok Roh on “Yalta Conference and the Division of the Korean Peninsula.” Feb. 24: Washington University women, gender, and sexuality studies fellow Dredge Byung'chu Kang on “Idols of Development: The Performance of Asian Modernity via Queer Thai K-Pop Fandom.” 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-1825.

★“Your Footprints on the Web”: Pittsfield Union Grange. Talk by local web analytics manager Chris Grant, who says, “I am one of those people who tracks you when you're browsing the Internet and here's what you need to know from me.” The program begins with a potluck (bring a dish to pass). 6:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 769-1052.

★“African-American City with Local Historian”: Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by Ypsilanti historian and historic preservationist Matt Siegfried. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★“An Evening of Poetry and Written Word”: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. 7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★Ruta Sepetys: Literati Bookstore. This Nashville-based writer, a Detroit native and author of the bestselling *Between Shades of Gray*, reads from *Salt to the Sea*, her visceral historical novel centered on the deadliest maritime disaster in history, the 1945 sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Three WWII refugees from different countries are forced to unite in their efforts to get aboard the former Nazi cruise ship, but just when freedom is within their grasp, Russian torpedoes strike the massive ship. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★“The Piano Lesson”: EMU Theater Department. Feb. 10–14. EMU theater professor Lee Stille directs EMU drama students in August Wilson's Pulitzer prize-winning drama about an African American family divided by the brutal legacy of slavery. Set in 1936, the story pits an aging brother and sister against each other in a dispute over a family heirloom, a piano carved with the faces of their slave ancestors. The brother wants to sell the piano so he can buy the property where his family once were slaves. His sister insists that the piano itself represents the family legacy. Recommended for audiences age 13 & up. 7 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.) 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), EMU Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students, \$7) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.



★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Book-sellers.** Retired Ypsilanti adult education teacher Beverly Sprague leads a discussion of *Margaret Sanger: A Life of Passion*, Jean Baker's biography of pioneering birth control activist and the founder of the group that became Planned Parenthood. 7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369-2499.

★**"Day Dreams": U-M Concert Band.** Courtney Snyder and guest conductor Andrea Brown conduct this student ensemble in Tower's *Fascinating Ribbons*, Cuong's *Moth*, Wilson's *Daydreams*, Weber's *Concertino for Oboe and Winds* with oboe soloist Nancy Ambrose King, Bates's *Chicago 2012*, and Dello Joio's *Variants on a Medieval Tune*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 11 THURSDAY

★**"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater.** See 10 Wednesday. Today's show is sold out. 10 a.m.

★**"Sensation Stations": Ann Arbor District Library.** All toddlers ages 18 months-3 years invited to drop in to engage their senses by scooping, pouring, squeezing, and shaking a variety of materials. 10:30-11:30 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Much Ado about Mutton: Detroit's Food Past and Present": Ann Arbor Farm & Garden.** Talk by Michigan food writer Bill Loomis. 12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5 (members, free). [annarborfarmandgarden.org@gmail.com](mailto:annarborfarmandgarden.org@gmail.com)

★**Ikebana International Ann Arbor Chapter.** All invited to join a session of this Japanese art of flower arranging. 1-2:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$15 (members, \$8) materials fee; metered parking. Preregistration required. [janet.muhleman@regroup.us](mailto:janet.muhleman@regroup.us)

★**"Louise Fili: Food, Type, and All Things Italian": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Talk by this NYC designer, who specializes in brand development for restaurants, specialty food packaging, and book design. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668-8463.

★**NoViolet Bulawayo: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** See review, p. 59. Reading by this Zimbabwe-born novelist. Her debut novel, *We Need New Names*, tells the story of a young Zimbabwean girl who moves to the Midwest. Winner of the 2014 PEN-Hemingway Award, the book "illuminate[s] how the reinvention of the self in a new place confronts the protective memory of the way things were back home," says a *New York Times* review. Signing. Bulawayo also does a Q&A at 2 p.m. today in the Hopwood Room (1176 Angell Hall). 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. [aireadm@umich.edu](mailto:aireadm@umich.edu), 764-6330.

★**"Pick Your Perfect Pair": Zingerman's Creamery.** Zingerman's staff help participants pick cheeses to pair with each of 3 beers and 3 wines. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$30. 929-0500.

★**"Phantom Masks & Opera": Main Street Ventures/Bellini Opera Theatre.** Michigan-based Italian-born baritone Dino Valle directs local singers in favorite songs from *Phantom of the Opera*. 3-course dinner prepared by chef John Fischer. 6 & 8 p.m., Gratz, 326 S. Main. Tickets \$89.95. Reservations required. [info@msventures.net](mailto:info@msventures.net), (888) 456-3463.

★**"The Foundations of Self-Publishing": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Emlyn Chand, a local writer and Novel Publicity founder whose debut novel, *Farsighted*, won the 2012 Writer's Digest Self-Published Novel of the Year award. (Chand has recently started releasing books in her legal name, Melissa Storm.) For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

★**"An American Cocktail in Paris": Zingerman's Cornman Farms.** Zingerman's staff discuss and show how to make 3 cocktails—the Between the Sheets, the Monkey Gland, and the Vie Rose—made famous in the early 20th century by Scottish-born, Paris-based celebrity bartender Harry MacElhone. Tastings. With appetizers. Recipes available. 7-9:30 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$65. Reservations required. 619-8100.

★**"For the Love of Hops": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting.** A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen IPAs, pale ales, lagers, and other styles that feature an unusually heavy hop content. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. 213-1393.

★**"Story Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Storytellers Guild members present a program



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★“Goya: Visions of Flesh and Blood”: Fathom Events. Virtual tour of the National Gallery (London) exhibition of works by the 18th and 19th century Spanish Romantic painter Francisco Goya. 7 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets \$14 in advance at <http://fathomevents.com/event/goya-visions-of-flesh-and-blood>. 623-7469.

★“Open Mike & Share”: Bookbound. Reading by a featured poet TBA. The program begins with an open mike for poets, who are welcome to read their own work or a favorite poem by another writer. 7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

★David Joy: Literati Bookstore. This North Carolina writer reads from *Where All Light Tends to Go*, his debut novel about an 18-year-old high school dropout who works with his family in a methodically organized meth ring in a bleak hardscrabble town. After botching a murder, he's torn between appeasing his kingpin father and leaving the mountains with the girl he loves. “This isn't your ordinary coming-of-age novel,” says the *New York Times Book Review*. “With his bone-cutting insights into these men and the region that bred them, Joy makes it an extraordinarily intimate experience.” Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★“Orchestra Night”: Ann Arbor Public Schools. This gala concert features more than 1,000 student performers in orchestras from all 5 Ann Arbor middle schools, plus the Huron, Skyline, and Pioneer symphony orchestras. Program TBA. 7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 994-2314.

★“Sondheim on Sondheim”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★“The Piano Lesson”: EMU Theater Department. See 10 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★“Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris”: The Penny Seats Theatre Company. Every Thurs., Feb. 11-Mar. 3. Laura Sagolla directs this local company in Eric Blau and Mort Shuman's cabaret-style 1968 show showcasing the songs of Belgian composer Jacques Brel, whose pointed political commentary and heartfelt *chansons* made him one of the most venerated singer-songwriters of his time. Four singers share the stage, performing solo and ensemble numbers ranging from “Marathon,” a ferocious commentary on the events of the 20th century, to the famous anthem, “If We Only Have Love.” Stars Brendan Kelly, Lauren M. London, Natalie Rose Se-vick, and Roy Sexton. 7:30 p.m. (dinner seatings start at 6 p.m.), Conor O'Neill's Celtic Room, 318 S. Main. Seating limited. Tickets \$10 (\$20 includes dinner en-tre) in advance at [pennyseats.org/box-office](http://pennyseats.org/box-office) and (if available) at the door. 926-5346.

★Faculty Showcase: U-M School of Music. Performances by U-M music professors, including saxophonist Timothy McAllister, percussionist Jonathan Ovalle, flutist Amy Porter, pianist Arthur Greene, and others TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★“Chesapeake”: Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

★“The Odd Couple”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★“The Electric Baby”: Kickshaw Theatre. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tina Giorgi: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Feb. 11-13. A former schoolteacher, this NYC comic is known for her rapid-fire, sharp-witted observational humor directed at the state of American culture. “Achieving what often eludes many less adept comedien-nes, her set was wickedly sarcastic and edgy without coming across as negative, angry, or just plain mean,” says the *Long Island Voice*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$11 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$13 (Thurs.) & \$17 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 12 FRIDAY

★Agility Trials: Ann Arbor Dog Training Club. Feb. 12-14. Dog trainers lead their animals through an obstacle course and jumps of various heights. Spectators welcome. 8 a.m.-early afternoon, Canine Sports Recreation Center, 7275 W. Joy Rd., Dexter. Free to spectators. 995-2801.

★“Drum Me a Story”: Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & noon.

★Lenten Organ Concert Series: American Guild of Organists. Every Fri., Feb. 12-Mar. 18. Concerts by AGO members and their students. 12:15-1:15 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 604-3205.

38th Annual Lenten Fish Fry: Old St. Patrick's Church. Every Fri., Feb. 12-Mar. 18. Fried Alaskan pollack, choice of potato or macaroni & cheese, salad

bar, and beverage. Desserts available for a nominal additional charge. Beer & wine available by donation. Be prepared to stand in line, but the food is worth the wait. 4:30-7 p.m., Old St. Pat's parish hall, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). \$9 (seniors, \$8; children 6-11, \$6; children 5 & under, free). 662-8141.

Lenten Fish Dinner: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Every Fri., Feb. 12-Mar. 18. Fried cod, baked tilapia, homemade mac & cheese, green beans, roasted red potatoes, French fries, salad bar, rolls with butter, and beverages. Fish sticks and grilled cheese available for kids. Homemade clam chowder and desserts available (\$2 each). 5-7:30 p.m., St. Francis Parish Activities Center, 2250 E. Stadium. \$10 (seniors age 62 & over, \$9; kids age 6-11, \$5; kids age 5 & under, free). 769-2550.

★“Fridays After Five”: UMMA. The museum stays open late with music and activities. 5-8 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★“Valentine Happy Hour: Smitten in the Mitten”: Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of pairings of Michigan wines and a sparkling wine cocktail with chocolates from truffle makers around the state. 6-7 & 8-9 p.m., Zingerman's Events on Fourth, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$35. Reservations required. 663-3400.

★“The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution”: U-M Trotter Multicultural Center. Screening of Stanley Nelson's sympathetic 2015 documentary that weaves together rare historical footage and interviews with people who were members of the Black Panther Party in the 1960s. 6 p.m., Trotter Multicultural Center Lounge, 1443 Washtenaw. Free. 972-5415.

★Z.G. Tomaszewski & Dennis Hinrichsen: Literati Bookstore. These Michigan poets read from their work. Tomaszewski's first book, *All Things Dusk*, was selected by Li-Young Lee as the 2014 Hong Kong University International Poetry Prize winner. “These visionary poems suggest that every world is manifold worlds, that mundane experience is saturated with the sacred,” says Lee. Hinrichsen's 2014 book, *Skin Music*, won the 2014 Michael Waters Poetry Prize and uses motifs of skin and music to explore the desire for a believable, knowable place. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★“The Piano Lesson”: EMU Theater Department. See 10 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet-saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761-7435.

★“A Great Distance”: U-M Confucius Institute. Soprano Juliet Petrus and pianist Lydia Qiu, a duo of U-M grads recently returned from a 3-city tour of China, perform a program, sung in both Mandarin and English, exploring the cross-cultural influence of China and the West in art song. 7:30-9:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-8888.

★EMU Wind Symphony: EMU Music Department. Mary Schneider directs this music student ensemble in a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. Feb. 12 & 19. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 8-10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764-3440.

Advanced English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Bob Messer, Susie Lorand, and others call to live music by Steve Schneider, Lorand, Josh Burdick, and Nadine Dyskant-Miller. For experienced dancers. 8-11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$10. [fjueerst@juno.com](mailto:fjueerst@juno.com), (248) 288-4737.

★Aaron Berofsky & Ellen Hwangbo: U-M School of Music. Performance by U-M violin professor Berofsky and pianist Hwangbo, an internationally acclaimed performer who is known for her expressive power and passionate interpretations. Program TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

Samn Johnson: Canterbury House. Performance by this Michigan-bred Brooklyn-based composer and electronic musician. His recent projects have included an album pairing classical singers and instruments with rock instruments and electronics, a solo piano EP, and a chamber opera based on Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$10 (students, \$5). 665-0606.

★“Sondheim on Sondheim”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.



# dance

## Camille A. Brown & Dancers

### Black Girl: Linguistic Play

When Camille Brown choreographed *Black Girl: Linguistic Play*, she had both personal and political motivations: to "re-remind myself of the beauty of who I was before the world defined me," she explained at the show's premiere run, which I caught at New York's Joyce Theater in September. The dance is an essay on black girlhood that's high on joy, spunk, and tenderness.

"I didn't see anything that reflected my childhood," she said. Hence this dance, for herself and five women from her company. Drawing on the oral and kinetic vocabulary of black-girl childhood games—an early inspiration was a book by ethnomusicologist and U-M alum Kyra Gaunt, *The Games Black Girls Play: Learning the Ropes from Double-Dutch to Hip-Hop*—Brown's dance is rich in rhyme, rhythm, and history. It's about unspoken language and gesture, culture, connection, and self-defined identity. The lexicon is particular; the communication, universal.

A prolific choreographer with numerous awards for her dance and theater work, the thirty-something Brown is also a powerhouse dancer. "My name is Cami, and I am small," she sang out in an exhilarating game-song episode that elicited audience participation. "But when you see me, you think I'm tall." That's precisely the impression the petite, compact Brown makes as she starts the show, reaching up into space as if to summon her past, a soft babble of voices in the background.

Set designer Elizabeth Nelson gives Brown an urban playground for *Black Girl*, with platforms of various heights to dance on, around, and in between. Behind the highest, a blackboard wall rises, chalked with swirls and squiggles, flowers and fireworks. Overhead, mirrors reflect novel views of the dancers' moves.

Pianist Scott Paterson and electric bassist Tracy Wormworth, who composed music for the dance, share the stage. Some movements occur to silence, but they are always so vivid you "hear" as well as see them.

Brown's opening solo quickly rises in pitch. Braids and feet fly, hips swing, hands fan. She kicks up a chalk storm, her arms the treble to the bass of her sneaker-clad feet. She's cat light even when driving like mad into the playground macadam.

Brown's intensity redoubles when Catherine Foster enters for the first of the dance's several duets. This one is all call-and-response: black-girl games taken to darting, Double Dutch virtuosic heights.

The girls grow up in the succeeding two duets. There's definitely a teen feeling—rivalry and bonding, preening and pouting—to the next duet, for Fana Fraser and Beatrice Capote. The last duet, for Yusha-Marie Sorzano and Mora-Amina Parker (whose role Brown will assume in Ann Arbor), feels more introspective and almost maternal. And then, dance language having had its say, it's time for actual talking: a post-show moderated dialogue that's part of each performance.

Camille A. Brown & Dancers perform *Black Girl* Saturday, February 13, at the Power Center, courtesy of UMS, but that's not the only chance to appreciate Brown this month. The U-M dance department's annual Power Center concert (see 4 Thursday listing) includes her more abstract 2010 *City of Rain*, compelling for its urgency, beauty, and complexity of pattern.

—Susan Isaacs Nisbett



CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN

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"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday, 8 p.m.

Tina Giorgi: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 13 SATURDAY

**12th Annual Ice Fishing Derby:** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Kids and adults invited to catch northern pike, blue gill, bass, and crappie in this annual fishing derby. Prizes for "Longest Northern Pike" and "Longest Pan Fish." Bring your own bait. No alcohol, ATVs, or snowmobiles. Lunch included with registration fee. Weather permitting. 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. \$10 (kids 12 & under, \$5) in advance; \$15 (kids, \$10) at the gate. \$5 park entry fee. parksonline.ewashtenaw.org; 449-4437, ext. 203.

**\*Eco-Restoration Workday:** U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. Feb. 13 & 20. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. Note: Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16–18 must submit a permission form. 9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Feb. 13), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Feb. 20), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration required by phone or email. tgriffit@umich.edu, 647-8528.

**Huron Gun Collectors.** Feb. 13 & 14. About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including

antiques and collectibles. Concessions. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (517) 605-0624.

**"Critters Up Close!":** Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Feb. 13 & 14. Leslie Science and Nature Center staff show live animals. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. This month's featured critters are **worms & friends**. Note: Saturday's program includes a mid-day "Animal Naptime" break. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Feb. 13) & 1–4 p.m. (Feb. 14), AAHOM Michigan Nature Gallery, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

**\*"Family Ice Fishing and Bonfire":** Winter Nature Programs: Waterloo Natural History Association. All invited to watch an ice-fishing demo or try it yourself. Also, an area cleared for skating. Followed by a bonfire with hot cocoa and marshmallows to roast. Bring your own hot dogs, if you like, to cook for lunch. Weather permitting. 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Mill Lake parking lot, follow the signs from the north end of Pierce Rd., north off I-94 exit 157, Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. \$10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475-3170.

**\*"Loving to Recycle":** Ecology Center of Ann Arbor. All invited to re-make paper to fashion a handcrafted valentine. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling center; close-toed shoes and long pants required for the tour. 10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. Preregistration required for groups of 5 or more. 369-9272.

**46th Annual Train Show and Sale:** Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. Feb. 13 & 14. The Midwest's largest model railroad flea market draws model railroaders, collectors, and train buffs from all over to display, trade, and sell model railroad equipment and memorabilia.

the PurpleRose 25 years

# THE ODD Couple

BY NEIL SIMON

Oscar,  
We're all out of  
Cornflakes.

xo,  
F.U.

JAN. 21 - MARCH 26, 2016

DIRECTED BY LAUREN MOUNSEY

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## Events at the Institute for the Humanities University of Michigan February 2016

### EVENTS FROM THE 2015-16 YEAR OF CONVERSIONS

A year-long examination of change and transformation.

All events are held at the **Institute for the Humanities**, 202 S. Thayer, unless otherwise noted.

All events are **free** and **open to the public**

734.936.3518

humint@umich.edu



Photo: *The Swing* by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, the basis for Kent Monkman exhibition *Scent of a Beaver*

### Gallery

**Innovative exhibitions and arts programming.**

**Jan 21 - Feb 26** — *Scent of a Beaver*, installation by **Kent Monkman**, gallery hours: M-F 9am-5pm

**Jan 21 - Feb 26** — *Converging Paths: The Photography of Pawel Figurski*, Pop-Up exhibition by **Pawel Figurski**, Osterman Common Room, M-F 9am-5pm

**Feb 15** — Artist **Nigel Poor**, "San Quentin Prison Project: Photography Inside," 1pm

### Major Lectures

**Presenting distinguished visitors to enhance the humanities and arts at Michigan.**

**Feb 16** — "Another 1973: Remembering Gay Liberation and Reproductive Freedom Transversally," 2016 Jean Yokes Woodhead Lecture by **Susan Stryker**, Rackham West Conference Room, 915 E. Washington St., 4pm

### The Living Room

**Performances in intimate spaces.**

**Feb 18** — *A Picture Screen Stands in Solitude*, **Paul Drescher** and ensemble **Amy X Neuberg** and **Joel Davel**, with remarks from **Nigel Poor** and **Steve Rush**, Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 E. University, 7pm

### Author's Forum

**A series on books & ideas presented in collaboration with the University Library and the Ann Arbor Book Festival.**

**Feb 9** — *The Jim Crow Routine: Everyday Performances of Race and the End of Segregation in Mississippi*, A Conversation with **Stephen Berrey** and **Angela Dillard**, Hatcher Graduate Library, Gallery #100, 913 S. University, 5:30pm

### FellowSpeak

**Ongoing exchange with our fellows past and present.**

**Feb 23** — **Marjorie Rubright**, "A Conjunction in Time Long Past": Language and Earth in the Renaissance," 12:30pm

### Digital Currents

**Humanities scholarship in and about digital environments.**

**Feb 1** — *Beyond Control + F: Text Mining Across the Disciplines* symposium, Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw Ave, 9am-5pm

**Feb 12** — "Digital Humanities and the Future of Scholarship: Exclusivity, Disruption, and Leading from the Margins" with **Jesse Stommel** and **Sean Michael Morris**, 3pm

Also, a kids' zone, displays of model train operating layouts, clinics by model railroad club members, and a raffle. Concessions. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Feb. 13) & 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Feb. 14), Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. \$6 (tentative). 426-0829.

★**"Just Babies!"**: Ann Arbor District Library. KinderMusik teacher Denise Owens presents a program for pre-walking babies age 3 months & older. 10-10:40 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway**. Feb. 13 & 27. One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. 10:30 a.m.-midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. \$16 to race (\$8 to rent a car, if available). (517) 960-5252.

★**"Live! Birds of Prey"**: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Howell Nature Center representatives present a program on birds of prey that includes displays of live hawks, owls, falcons, and vultures. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$5 (kids, \$3). Preregistration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★**"Drum Me a Story"**: Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday, 11 a.m.

★**"Date with a Book"**: Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to spend 4 minutes, speed dating-style, with each of several books in different genres to see if you can find something you might want to read. 1-2 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Winter Walkabout"**: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission Winter FunFest/Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. All invited for snacks, warm drinks, and socializing, followed at 2 p.m. by a drive 1 mile south for a leisurely 90-minute walk through the 424-acre LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve to look for animal tracks and enjoy the winter landscape. Led by WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance. No pets. 1:15 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect at Cherry Hill, Superior Twp. Free. 971-6337, ext. 335.

★**"Splash Day"**: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. Prizes. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Mack Indoor Pool, 715 Brooks. \$5 (youth age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, \$4). 794-6234.

★**Victorian Valentine Tea: Kempf House Museum**. Feb. 13 & 14. An elegant traditional tea with a menu that includes both sweets and savorys. With romantic piano music played on the Kempf family's 1877 Steinway. This popular annual fundraiser usually sells out well in advance. 1:30 p.m. (Feb. 13 & 14) & 4 p.m. (Feb. 14), Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$25. Reservations required. 994-4898.

★**"Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School"**: Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its colorful, funny, fast-paced musical based on Barbara Clark's book about the adventures of a precocious first grader. In this story, Junie shares her hard-won expertise for negotiating the terrors and joys of school. Geared toward kids in grades K-5. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12 (MTF members, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

★**"Geometric Paper Lanterns"**: Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. Materials provided. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Raptor Feeding"**: Leslie Science & Nature Center. Every Sat. LSNC volunteers feed and answer questions about the center's red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon, and other resident raptors, who may come out of their enclosures to eat. 3-4 p.m. Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997-1553.

★**"The Electric Baby"**: Kickshaw Theatre. See 4 Thursday, 3 p.m.

★**Piano Exchange Recital Series: U-M School of Music**. Piano students from the Cincinnati School of Music (5 p.m.) and the Eastman School of Music (7:30 p.m.) perform works TBA. Also, a recital by Oberlin Conservatory of Music students on Feb. 14 (see listing). 5 & 7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"20th Annual Hearts for the Arts"**: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Fundraiser. Champagne reception, formal dinner, and live and silent auctions. Also, live music by AASO musicians. 6 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. Tickets \$175 (\$250 Symphony Sweetheart tickets include special recognition, extra treats, and admission to

a future event TBA) in advance at [a2so.com/events/hearts-for-the-arts](http://a2so.com/events/hearts-for-the-arts). lori@a2so.com, 994-4801.

★**"4th Annual Creature Courtship"**: The Creature Conservancy. Feb. 13 & 14. All age 21 & over invited for wine and hors d'oeuvres. Followed by a presentation, with live animals, on methods of seduction and reproduction in the animal kingdom. 7 p.m. sharp, Creature Conservancy, 4940 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$30 & a donation of unopened dry or canned dog or cat food. Reservations required at [thecreatureconservancy.org/upcoming-events.html](http://thecreatureconservancy.org/upcoming-events.html). 929-9324.

★**"The Piano Lesson"**: EMU Theater Department. See 10 Wednesday, 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Sacred & Secular Music of Greece"**: First United Methodist Church. The FUMC choir are joined by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church choir and adult and youth dance troupes for a program ranging from the inspiring sacred music of the Greek Orthodox Church to choral arrangements of secular folk melodies from small villages and islands. The concert is preceded, 5-7 p.m., by an **International Boutique**, with sale of artworks and crafts from Ten Thousand Villages, and at 6 p.m. by an authentic Greek dinner (\$15; students, \$8; family, \$40; kids under 5, free). 7:30 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Freewill offering. 662-4536, ext. 0.

★**2nd Saturday Contra Dance**. Drake Meadows calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a beginner lesson. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (students, \$5). [garth.gerber@charter.net](mailto:garth.gerber@charter.net), 649-6426.

★**Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department**. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$10. 822-2120.

★**"Valentine's Ragtime Trot"**: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Various dances that were popular from 1900 to the 1920s, with live music by the Huron Valley Serenaders. Period attire encouraged. Preceded at 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. 8-11 p.m., Crossroads Community Center, 5501 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. \$30 (includes lessons). Preregistration requested at [vintagedance.com](http://vintagedance.com). 769-0041.

★**Chatham Baroque: Academy of Early Music**. This Pittsburgh trio of Baroque violinist Andrew Fouts, viola da gambist Patricia Halverson, and theorbo player and Baroque guitarist Scott Pauley is joined by Baroque violinist Dawn Posey and percussionist Danny Mallon in a program of Baroque Spanish music, including Latin American- and West African-infused dance music, such as lively gaitas, jácara, and tarantellas. Highlights include Santiago de Murcia's Fandango and Zarambeques, Andrea Falconieri's Folias, and various dances by Gaspar Sanz. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lecture on the program. 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$25 (seniors, \$22; students, \$10) in advance at [AcademyOfEarlyMusic.org](http://AcademyOfEarlyMusic.org). Nicola's Books (2513 Jackson), Bookbound (1729 Plymouth), and at the door. 478-6421.

★**Spirit Singing Band: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse**. Local musicians Kath Weider-Ross, Sam Clark, and friends are joined by the audience for a night of meditation, improvisation, poetry and trance chant on the subject of love. 8-10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$8 (\$15 for 2). 327-0270.

★**"Mr. B's Annual Birthday Bounce"**: Kerrytown Concert House. World-renowned local blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun celebrates his birthday in this popular annual concert. An exuberant, powerful performer whose repertoire includes both boogie-woogie and blues classics and originals in the same mold, Mr. B has performed and recorded with world-class artists such as the late drummer J.C. Heard and Detroit percussionist Roy Brooks. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$20-\$35 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com), 769-2999.

★**"Black Girl: Linguistic Play"**: Camille A. Brown & Dancers (University Musical Society). See review, p. 63. Brown leads her New York City dance company in her new work that explores female identity and elevates playground games into empowerment. The show's been praised by the *New York Times* as clever, tender, and self-conscious. The score, performed live, is comprised of original compositions by electric bassist Tracy Wormworth and pianist Scott Patterson that encompass the rhythmic play of African American rooted steppin', Double Dutch, and Juba. Q&A follows. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$26-\$48 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org) & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**"Red Eye Theater"**: U-M Residential College Players. RC students present an original play that has been conceived, written, and rehearsed within the past 24 hours. 8 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 530 Church. Free. 647-4354.

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# galleries

**Ann Arbor Art Center**, 117 W. Liberty. *Mid-West Furniture Zoku* (Feb. 5–Mar. 5). Exhibit of works by area furniture makers and designers. Reception Feb. 5, 6–9 p.m. Curator talk Feb. 18, 6–8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5:30 p.m. 994–8004.

**Ann Arbor City Club**, 1830 Washtenaw. *Scenes of Michigan* (Feb. 15–Mar. 25). Oil paintings by Judith Mason Macomber. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 662–3279.

**Ann Arbor District Library, Malletts Creek Branch**, 3090 E. Eisenhower. *Nature and Nurture: Art Teachers as Artists* (Feb. 2–Mar. 9). Works in various media by the Ann Arbor Art Teachers Alumni Association. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

**Concordia University Kreft Center for the Arts**, 4090 Geddes. *David Samuel Stern: Recent Work* (Feb. 2–Mar. 6). Portraits by this New York photographer who weaves together 2 prints of the same subject to obscure the direct gaze of the camera lens and create a 3-D effect. Reception Feb. 12, 7–9 p.m. Tues.–Fri. noon–4 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1–5 p.m. 995–7389.

**EMU Ford Gallery**, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Graduate Student Art Exhibition 2016* (Feb. 15–Mar. 9). Works in various media by EMU art grad students. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–1268.

**Kerrytown Concert House**, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Joe the Quilter* (Feb. 2–28). Quilts by Michigan artist Joe Cunningham, author of *Men and the Art of Quilt-making*. Reception Feb. 13, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769–2999.

**U-M School of Natural Resources Art & Environment Gallery**, Dana Bldg. 1st floor (440 Church). *Trending Toward Wild* (Feb. 1–Mar. 30). Mixed media paintings by Andrew Sell, inspired by a recent trip to ten public gardens in New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Reception Feb. 8, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–6 p.m. 764–4491.

**U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology**, 434 S. State. *Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero* (Feb. 5–May 15). International traveling exhibition of more than 200 objects from Roman villas near

Pompeii. Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1–4 p.m. 764–9304.

**U-M Museum of Art (UMMA)**, 525 S. State. *Xu Weixin: Monumental Portraits* (Feb. 20–May 29). The first major U.S. exhibition by this 20th-century Chinese artist, including works from his 2 acclaimed series: *Miner Portraits* of coal miners working in harsh conditions and *Chinese Historical Figures: 1966–1976* of known and unknown figures from the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

**U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design)**, 2000 Bonisteel. *Niklaus Troxler: 40 Years of Jazz Posters* (through Feb. 15). Posters created by this Swiss-born designer for the Willisau Jazz Festival, which he founded in 1975. Part of the exhibit is housed at the **U-M Work** gallery (306 S. State). Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 368–1095.

**WSG Gallery**, 306 S. Main. *Vessels and Dwellings* (Feb. 16–Mar. 26). Works by local sculptor and ceramist Francesc Burgos, whose work explores music, geometry, and the relationship between interior and exterior space. Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

**"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company**. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company**. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

**"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova**. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

**Tina Giorgi: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase**. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 14 SUNDAY (VALENTINE'S DAY)

**"Comparative Cupping": Zingerman's Coffee Company**. Zingerman's Coffee staff offer taste samples of coffees from around the world using the tools and techniques of professional tasters. 1–3 p.m., Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$20. 929–6060.

**\*Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp**. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. 1–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 761–1451.

**\*Piano Exchange Recital Series: U-M School of Music**. Students from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music perform works TBA. 1 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.

**Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange**. All kids, accompanied by an adult, invited for contra and square dancing with live music. Refreshments. 2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$12 per family. 769–1052.

**\*"Soviet Constructivist Posters: Branding the New Order": UMMA**. Feb. 14 & 21. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of 1920s film posters by Soviet artists Vladimir and Georgii Stenberg who championed utilitarian art that promoted egalitarian ideals and was easily accessible to a wide audience. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.

**\*"Valentine's Day Houses": Ann Arbor District Library**. Craft activities for kids in grades K–5. 2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.

**"All About the Trio: Our Favorite Love Songs": Kerrytown Concert House**. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio in one of her popular lecture-concerts. With bassist Paul Keller, drummer Pete Siers, and guest vocalist Sunny Wilkinson, a nationally known straight-ahead jazz singer who performs bebop ballads and jazz standards. 2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10–\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com), 769–2999.

**"The Piano Lesson": EMU Theater Department**. See 10 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company**. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

**"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova**. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company**. See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

**\*EMU Symphonic Band: EMU Music Department**. Amy Knopps directs this music student ensemble in a Valentine's Day program TBA. 4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

**\*Jeremy David Tarrant: Ypsilanti Pipe Organ Festival**. This internationally recognized organist (and

U-M grad) performs works by Dupré, Schumann, Vieme, and others. Reception follows. 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. 482–1525.

**"Love Is Strong as Death": UMS Choral Union**. Scott Hanoian conducts the 175-voice choir in a Valentine's Day program of works that explore themes of love and loss, including Durufle's provocative and comforting Requiem, Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody*, and Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. Soloists are mezzo-soprano Kristin Eder and bass-baritone Stephen Lancaster. With organist Scott VanOrnum. 4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10–\$36 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org) & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538, (800) 221–1229.

**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre**. See 4 Thursday. 4 p.m.

**\*"Faculty Recital: Bach Sonatas": U-M School of Music**. Violinist Andrew Jennings and harpsichordist Joseph Gascho perform Bach's sonatas in C minor, F minor, and G major. 5 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.

**\*U-M Euphonium & Tuba Ensemble: U-M School of Music**. Fritz Kaenzig directs euphonium and tuba students in works TBA. Also, a performance by the Youth Euphonium & Tuba Ensemble. 5:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.

**"Owl Do I Love Thee": Leslie Science and Nature Center**. All couples invited for chocolate-covered strawberries, gourmet cheese, and a tasty beverage, followed by a lantern-lit poetry walk to the LSNCR rap-rap enclosures to view the resident owls up close. 7–9 p.m., LSNCR, 1831 Traver Rd. \$25 per couple. Preregistration required by Feb. 8. 997–1533.

**"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam": Ann Arbor Senior Center**. Feb. 14 & 28. All singers, acoustic & electric guitarists, bassists, mandolinists, banjoists, ukulele players, percussionists, keyboardists, and other musicians invited to join organizer Michael Niemi to play folk, rock, country, or original tunes. Bring a music stand and copies of sheet music. Listeners welcome. 7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5 (members, free). Preregistration required for musicians at [meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam](http://meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam). 794–6250.

## 15 MONDAY (PRESIDENT'S DAY)

**8th Annual Homegrown Local Food Summit**. Tastings of local food prepared by area chefs and talks and discussions on this year's theme, "Local Food for Everyone." 8 a.m.–5 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$40 in advance at [localfoodsummit.org](http://localfoodsummit.org) by Feb. 8; \$50 after Feb. 8. info@localfoodsummit.org

**"Mid-Winter Break Activities": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum**. Feb. 15–19. Hands-on engineering activities, including chances to experiment with circuits, design and build structures, create chemical concoctions, and more. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.

**School Break Activities: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens**. Feb. 15–19. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited for various nature-based activities. Feb. 15: "Self-Guided Adventure." Kids invited to use a Matthaei adventure bag to explore the gardens. Bags include a nature-themed book and activity and other

materials. Feb. 16: "Tell Your Story," a chance to create a travel guide, fairy tale, or explorers' guide based on plants in the conservatory. Feb. 17: "Wild West Stories" includes info about desert climate and geography around the world and the plants and animals that live there. Also, a chance to make a paper cactus garden to take home. Feb. 18: "Paper, the Back Story" includes info about how paper has been made for centuries. Followed by a chance to make paper from recycled newspaper. Feb. 19: "Flavor-Filled Friday" includes info about recipes from around the world and a chance to make recipe cards to take home. 10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free (Feb. 15) & \$5 (all other dates). Metered parking. Preregistration recommended at [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu). 647–7600.

**\*"Preschool ArtStart": Ann Arbor District Library**. Craft activity for preschoolers ages 2–5 accompanied by an adult. Siblings welcome. 10:30–11 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.

**"Larry Cat in Space": U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium**. Feb. 15–19. Audiovisual planetarium show that's a playful cartoon about an inquisitive cat that learns more than it wanted to know about life in space when it stows away on a shuttle to be with its owner. 12:30 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764–0478.

**\*Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division**. All invited to help maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Also, city staffers lead a short nature walk at the end of each workday. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. Feb. 15: **Foxfire West Nature Area** (1–3 p.m., meet at the park entrance on Birchwood Dr. off Dhu Warren.) to help remove invasive woody shrubs from one of the city's nicer wetlands. Feb. 20: **Furstenberg Nature Area** (1–3 p.m., off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High) to help remove invasive shrubs from the park's sedge meadow. 1–3 p.m., various locations. Free. 794–6627.

**\*"San Quentin Prison Report: Photography Inside": U-M Institute for the Humanities**. California State University–Sacramento photography professor Nigel Poor (see 18 Thursday "A Picture Screen Stands in Solitude" listing) discusses her experiences teaching a history of photography class through the Prison University Project, an organization that provides AA degrees to incarcerated men at San Quentin. 1 p.m., 1022 Thayer, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 936–3518.

**\*"Shoebox Cities!": Ann Arbor District Library**. All kids in grades 2–8 invited to explore what goes into planning and construction of a city or town, then design and build your own tiny city in a shoebox lid. 2–3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.

**\*Embroiderers' Guild of America**. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. 6:45–9 p.m., Pittsfield Condominium Community Bldg., 2220 Pittsfield Blvd. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues for those who join). 994–4385.

**\*Voice Department Recital: U-M School of Music**. Voice students perform works TBA. 6:45 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204. [5x]

**\*"Members Present!": Ann Arbor Women Artists**. 15-minute presentations by club members, including Patricia Davenport on portrait drawing, Kathy

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# February Events

TANYA TAGAQ | FEBRUARY 2



SUPPORTED BY  
Renegade Ventures Fund, established  
by Maxine and Stuart Frankel

FUNDED IN PART BY  
National Endowment for the Arts

MEDIA PARTNERS  
Ann Arbor's 107one and  
WDET 101.9 FM

## Tanya Tagaq IN CONCERT WITH *Nanook of the North*

Tuesday, February 2 // 7:30 pm  
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

With Tanya Tagaq, ancient meets modern in provocative, powerful ways. This spellbinding performance features the Inuit throat singer accompanying a screening of *Nanook of the North* (1922) with a live score. Her mixed-media performance reclaims the controversial classic — considered the first feature-length documentary — capturing the sense of the sound of the Arctic spaces shown in the film and adding tremendous feeling and depth to what is a complex mix of beautiful representations and racially charged clichés.



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## A 24-Decade History of American Popular Music: 1956-1986 Taylor Mac

Friday, February 5 // 8 pm  
Saturday, February 6 // 8 pm  
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

Taylor Mac is equal parts bedazzled shaman, searing social critic, radical angel, and Elizabethan fool. A critical darling of the New York downtown cabaret scene, Taylor is beloved for his iconic beauty, disarming vulnerability, and soaring spirit. His *24-Decade History of Popular Music* will eventually become an epic 24-hour show, but here in Ann Arbor, he focuses on the period 1956-1986 and the pursuit of African American civil rights, gay civil rights, and personal sexual liberation. "Fabulousness can come in many forms, and Taylor Mac seems intent on assuming every one of them." (*New York Times*). A UMS co-commission.

*Taylor Mac's cabaret will include mature content and is intended for adult audiences.*

SUPPORTED BY THE Renegade Ventures Fund, established by Maxine and Stuart Frankel

FUNDED IN PART BY Building Audiences for Sustainability initiative of The Wallace Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts

RELATED ACTIVITIES FUNDED IN PART BY Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund

MEDIA PARTNER Ann Arbor's 107one

## Igor Levit, PIANO

Saturday, February 6 // 8 pm  
Hill Auditorium

"His superb live performance confirmed the impression of his recording: A major new pianist has arrived." (*New York Times*) Born in 1987, the Russian-German pianist Igor Levit received effusive praise for his two-disc debut album of Beethoven's late piano sonatas. A relative newcomer to the United States, he makes his UMS debut with this recital appearance.

### PROGRAM

Bach	Partita No. 4 in D Major, BWV 828
Schubert	Six Moments Musicaux, D. 780
Beethoven	Sonata No. 17 in d minor, Op. 31, No. 2
Prokofiev	Sonata No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 83

SUPPORTED BY Ilene H. Forsyth Choral Union Endowment Fund

MEDIA PARTNER WGTE 91.3 FM

## Black Girl – Linguistic Play Camille A. Brown & Dancers

Camille A. Brown, artistic director and choreographer  
Saturday, February 13 // 8 pm  
Power Center

A leading voice in contemporary American dance, Camille A. Brown brings her latest work to Ann Arbor. *Black Girl – Linguistic Play* reveals the complexity of carving out a self-defined identity as a Black female in an urban American culture that is both racially and politically charged. Original compositions by collaborators Tracy Wormworth and Scott Patterson are performed live and encompass the rhythmic play of African-American-rooted steppin', Double Dutch, and Juba.

SPONSORED BY TOYOTA

SUPPORTED BY Linda and Richard Greene

FUNDED IN PART BY Arts Midwest Touring Fund, the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, and the National Endowment for the Arts

RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE FUNDED IN PART BY Engaging Dance Audiences, a program of Dance/USA

MEDIA PARTNER WEMU 89.1 FM

## Love is Strong as Death UMS Choral Union

Scott Hanoian, music director and conductor  
Arianne Abela, assistant conductor  
Scott VanOrnum, organ  
Kristin Eder, mezzo-soprano  
Stephen Lancaster, bass-baritone

Sunday, February 14 // 4 pm  
Hill Auditorium

This Valentine's Day, we explore the themes of love and loss with works featuring the UMS Choral Union accompanied by Hill Auditorium's Frieze Memorial Organ. The concert, led by new UMS Choral Union music director Scott Hanoian, features a provocative and comforting setting of the Requiem, the longing pleas of a wandering heart by Goethe, and the divinely transcendent poetry of George Herbert, all wedded to the music of Duruflé, Brahms, and Vaughan Williams. This afternoon of choral masterpieces is sure to fill your heart.

### PROGRAM

Brahms	Alto Rhapsody, Op. 53
Vaughan Williams	Five Mystical Songs
Duruflé	Requiem, Op. 9

## The Last Sonatas of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, and Schubert

### Sir Andrés Schiff, PIANO

Tuesday, February 16 // 7:30 pm  
Thursday, February 18 // 7:30 pm  
Saturday, February 20 // 8 pm  
Rackham and Hill Auditoriums

UMS is thrilled to bring all three concerts of "The Last Sonatas" to Ann Arbor, presented over the course of a week in Rackham and Hill Auditoriums. "Among current piano titans, Sir Andrés Schiff is the Zen master. He is both utterly relaxed and absolutely awake... Listening to Schiff play is like looking into a running stream and seeing all the colorful, round pebbles beneath the water." (*San Jose Mercury News*)

INDIVIDUAL CONCERTS ARE SUPPORTED BY Carl Cohen, Natalie Matovinović, Joel Howell and Linda Samuelson, and Jeffrey MacKie-Mason and Janet Netz

MEDIA PARTNERS WGTE 91.3 FM and WRCJ 90.9 FM

## The Triplets of Belleville

Benoît Charest, composer-conductor  
Friday, February 19 // 8 pm  
Michigan Theater

This beloved animated film is told almost exclusively through vaudevillian slapstick, but the real star is the red-hot jazz score by the acclaimed Canadian film composer and guitarist Benoît Charest, who leads his eight-piece orchestra in a live performance of his original score for the film. The group immediately transports audiences to the exciting streets of 1920s Paris and Le Jazz Hot. (80 minutes, rated PG-13)

SUPPORTED BY Phyllis and David Herzig

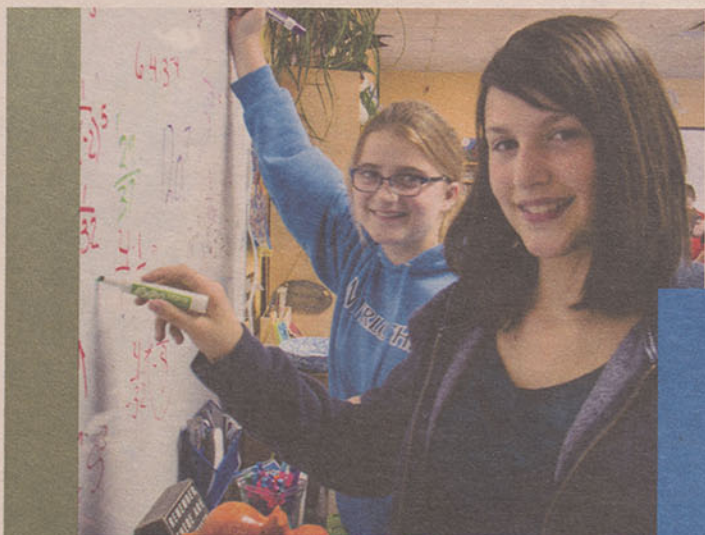
MEDIA PARTNERS Ann Arbor's 107one and WEMU 89.1 FM

## HD BROADCAST FROM THE NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Stage adaptation by Christopher Hampton  
Directed by Josie Rourke  
Wednesday, February 24 // 7 pm  
Michigan Theater

Former lovers, the Marquise de Merteuil and Vicomte de Valmont now compete in games of seduction and revenge. While these merciless aristocrats toy with others' hearts and reputations, their own may prove more fragile than they supposed.





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Hiner on watercolor works on Yupo and printmaking effects and textures, Donna Iadipalo on her works in various media, and Katherine Willson on incorporating genealogy into artwork. 7-8 p.m., AAWA Jackson Square Plaza Facility, 4844 Jackson (ste. 100). Free. annarborwomenartists@gmail.com

★**"Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America's Campuses":** U-M Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. Bestselling California-based writer Lawrence Ross discusses his new book. Signing. 7 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. 764-5517.

★**"Navigating the Immigration Experience":** Ann Arbor District Library. Freelance journalist Sandra Amrhein discusses some of the 50 life stories of recent U.S. immigrants depicted in her 2012 book *Green Card Stories*. In conjunction with the ongoing AADL film and discussion series "Latino Americans: 500 Years of History" (see Films). 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Mo Daviau:** Literati Bookstore. This Portland-based writer (and U-M grad) reads from *Every Anxious Wave*, her debut novel about a guy who uses his Chicago apartment's wormhole to send people back in time to rock concerts. When he accidentally leaves off the 1 in 1980, he sends his best friend back to Lenape Mannahatta in the year 980, and can't figure out how to bring him back. Novelist Rebecca Dinerstein says the book combines "the intelligent irreverence of Nick Hornby, the honest romance of Gary Shteyngart, and the swoon-worthy charm of a John Cusack movie, all within a riveting story of lost love, bent time, and rock stars." Signing. 7 p.m., Literati Bookstore. Free. 585-5567.

★**"Role of Soils in Ecosystems and Physiognomy":** Michigan Botanical Club/Wild Ones. Talk by U-M ecology professor Donald Zak. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647-7600.

★**"By the Seat of Their Pants":** Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Club members present an American Philatelic Society slide show about early U.S. air mail service in the 1920s. Also, a stamp auction and APS circuit books. 7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free. 761-5859.

★**"TED'16: Dream":** Fathom Events. Live broadcast of the Vancouver TED conference, a series of entertaining slide-illustrated lectures by world-renowned artists, storytellers, and thinkers, including TV writer and producer Shonda Rhimes, choreographer Bill T. Jones, and others. 8 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). \$17 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/ted-2016-dream-live. 623-7469 (Quality 16), 973-8424 (Rave).

★**Student Composers' Concert:** U-M School of Music. Music students perform works written by student composers. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Bait (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

## 16 TUESDAY

★**"Family Hike: Tracks in the Snow":** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission Winter FunFest. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike to look for animal tracks. 2-4 p.m., Scio Woods Preserve, north side of Scio Church Rd. west of Wagner. Free. severance@washtenaw.org; 971-6337, ext. 335.

★**"Suncatchers":** Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and youth in grade K & up invited to decorate a recycled CD to make a suncatcher. 2-3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**Strings Showcase:** U-M School of Music. Outstanding string students perform solo and ensemble chamber works. 3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Bait (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Another 1973: Remembering?? Gay Liberation and Reproductive Freedom Transversally":** U-M Institute for the Humanities Jean Yokes Woodhead Lecture. Talk by University of Arizona gender and women's studies professor Susan Stryker. 4 p.m., Rackham West Conference Room. Free. 936-3518.

★**"Services and Networking at Ann Arbor SPARK":** American Business Women's Association. Talk by SPARK central business incubator coordinator Charlotte Dillard. The program begins with networking and dinner. 6 p.m., Quarter Bistro, 300 S. Maple. Free (buy your own dinner). Preregistration required by Feb. 11 at abwa-maia.org/registration.html. moretime@umich.edu

★**"Classic Cocktails from the Prohibition Era":** Zingerman's Roadhouse. Roadhouse bartender and cocktail historian Alibeth Vandergrift and Roadhouse chef Alex Young host a dinner featuring a 1920s-style dinner menu paired with popular Prohibition-era cocktails. 7-9 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. \$80. Space limited; reservations required. 663-FOOD.

★**Polka Jam Session.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. Preceded at 6 p.m. by dinner (\$5-\$8). 7-9 p.m., Milan Moose Lodge, 14484 Sanford Rd. (just north of Milan-Oakville Rd.), Milan. Free. 529-3903.

★**Feminist Book Club:** Literati Bookstore. All invited to discuss *My Life on the Road*, feminist icon Gloria Steinem's memoir about her itinerant childhood and the ways travel has inspired her. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★**"Seaweed and Mushrooms":** People's Food Co-op. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news\_and\_events/. 994-4589.

★**"Mom's Cancer":** Ann Arbor District Library. Writer Brian Fies discusses his Eisner Award-winning graphic novel tracing the story of his mother's diagnosis and treatment for cancer, and its effect on his family. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters.** Reading by Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative (Kalamazoo) cofounder Denise Miller, author of *CORE*, a recent collection of poems based on the stories of African American sharecroppers of the Great Migration. The program begins with open mike readings. 7-8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994-6663.

★**"Ecological Balance: Natives, Invasives, and Weeds":** Huron Valley Sierra Club. Talk by local ecologist Jacqueline Courteau. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. hvsg@michigan.sierraclub.org. 647-7600.

★**The Moth Storyslam:** Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3-5 minute story on the monthly theme. February theme: "Love Hurts." The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. \$10. 764-5118.

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles:** EMU Music Department. Donald Babcock directs these 2 music student ensembles in a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**"András Schiff: The Last Sonatas":** University Musical Society. Feb. 16, 18, & 20 (different programs). One of the best pianists of his generation, Schiff is known for a polished style that combines a joyous sparkle with an intuitive discernment that teases out musical details other pianists miss. "Among current piano titans, Sir András Schiff is the Zen master," says a *San Jose Mercury News* review. "He is both utterly relaxed and absolutely awake ... Listening to Schiff play is like looking into a running stream and seeing all the colorful, round pebbles beneath the water." His "Last Sonatas" project explores late sonatas of Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, and Schubert, and Ann Arbor is one of only 6 cities in North America to present all 3 programs. Tonight's program: Haydn's Sonata no. 60 in C major, Beethoven's Sonata no. 30 in E major, Mozart's Sonata no. 16 in C major, and Schubert's Sonata in C minor. 7:30 p.m. (Feb. 16 & 18) & 8 p.m. (Feb. 20), Rackham Auditorium (Feb. 16) & Hill Auditorium (Feb. 18 & 20). Tickets \$12-\$70 in advance at tickets.ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

## 17 WEDNESDAY

★**"9-1-1: What Happens When You Call?":** U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Panel discussion with representatives from the Ann Arbor Police Department, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, and Huron Valley Ambulance. Followed at 11:30 a.m. by lunch and a Q&A with Ann Arbor Police sergeant Tom Hickey. 10 a.m.-noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration recommended. 998-9353.

★**"A Woman's Place Is in the ...":** 50 Years of Demographic Change: AAUW Ann Arbor Branch. U-M Population Studies Center data scientist Lisa Neidert discusses demographic changes in the U.S. in the last 50 years and how they've affected women. The program begins with lunch. 11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$15 (includes lunch). Reservations required by Feb. 7 via phone or email. jimdonnab@comcast.net. 316-7256.

★**"February Froggy Tales!":** Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program for kids in grades preK-2. 2-2:30 p.m., AADL youth story corner, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"The Odd Couple":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**"Encountering the Other in Young Adult Fiction":** Concordia University Books & Coffee. Concordia University writing instructor Jessica Luckhardt discusses recent trends in racial and ethnic diversity in young adult books. 4 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor Living Room, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995-4612.

★**"A Nervous State: Violence, Remedies, and Revivification in Colonial Congo":** U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. U-M history professor Nancy Rose Hunt, U-M American culture and history professor Brandi Hughes, and U-M anthropology professor Mike McGovern discuss Hunt's book. 4:10 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★**"Evolution and Deep Time":** U-M Natural History Museum Science Café. Talks by U-M ecology and evolutionary biology professors Catherine Badgley and Stephen Smith. Discussion follows. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by hors d'oeuvres. 6-7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 764-0478.

★**"Tiny Succulent Plant Pot":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 5 & up. 7-8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Smell and Tell: Eau Whiskey":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning smell and taste blog *Glass Petal Smoke*, introduces adults and teens in grade 6 & up to detecting smoke, wood, leather, and other aromas in whiskey. 7-8:45 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Michigan Robot Club.** All robotics hobbyists invited to work on and discuss robots. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a Kids Robot Club meeting for kids ages 5-13, accompanied by a parent. 7-9 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. mirobotclub.com

★**"Silent City":** Aunt Agatha's Book Club. NYC-based fiction writer Carrie Smith, a 3-time Hopwood winner as a U-M undergrad, discusses her debut crime novel, a police procedural whose lead character, an NYPD detective, is a cancer survivor returning to work. 7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

★**Culinary History Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Ann and Larry Walker's *To the Heart of Spain: Food and Wine Adventures Beyond the Pyrenees*. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**"Top Ten Favorite World Birding Destinations":** Washtenaw Audubon Society. Talk by Ann Arbor-based Journeys International founder Will Weber. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. 677-3275.

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble:** U-M School of Music. Oriol Sans conducts this adventurous ensemble of music majors in 20th- and 21st-century works inspired by architecture, including Kristin Kuster's *Folded Planes*, Harold Meltzer's *Aqua*, Erik Sven-Tuur's *Architectonics*, Andrew Norman's *Farnsworth: Four Portraits of a House*, and Xenakis's *Atrées*. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Bait (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Chesapeake":** Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 18 THURSDAY

★**"Biomedical Breakthroughs: The Future Is Here":** U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Every Thurs. (except Mar. 3), Feb. 18-Mar. 31. A series of 6 weekly lectures by different U-M and guest scholars. Feb. 18: U-M neurology and psychology professor Bruno Giordani on "Research Breakthroughs in the Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Alzheimer's." Feb. 25: U-M Cochlear Implant Program director H. Alexander Arts on "Cochlear Implants: New Technology, Applications, and Outcomes." Mar. 10: U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center founding director Max Wicha on "Can We Really Cure Cancer?" Mar. 17: U-M ophthalmology professor K. Thirana Jayasundera on "The Bionic Eye and New Treatments for Blindness and Retinal Disease." Mar. 24: U-M cardiac surgeon Jonathan Haft on "Mechanical Circulatory Support for Heart Failure." Mar. 31: U-M pediatric otolaryngologist Glenn Green, co-inventor of a 3-D-printed airway strip, on "Medical 3-D Printing to Save Lives." 10-11:30 a.m., Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. \$50 (members, \$30) for the 6-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. \$10 per lecture for members. 998-9351.

★**"Library Space Camp":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K-5 learn what it takes to become an astronaut and do some space-related activities. 1-3 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Tea with the Fairies":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as fairies to

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Tues. Feb. 9, 10am-11:30am

120 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

662-7660 www.fumcnpreschool.org

## Ann Arbor Nursery, Inc. A Cooperative Preschool

Sat., Feb. 6, 10am-12pm

Tues., Mar. 1, 10am-12pm

517 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor

769-7966 www.a2preschool.org

## Glacier Way Westside Co-op Preschool

Sat., Feb. 6, 10am-12pm

Thurs., Feb. 11, 6-7:30 pm

900 South 7th Street, Ann Arbor

995-0707 www.glacierwaycoop.org

## Stone School Cooperative Preschool

Sat., Feb. 6, 10am-12pm

2811 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor

971-4820 www.stoneschool.org

## Triangle Cooperative Preschool

Sat., Feb. 6, 10am-12pm

1432 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor

221-0905 www.trianglecoop.org

## Ypsilanti Cooperative Preschool

1110 West Cross Street, Ypsilanti

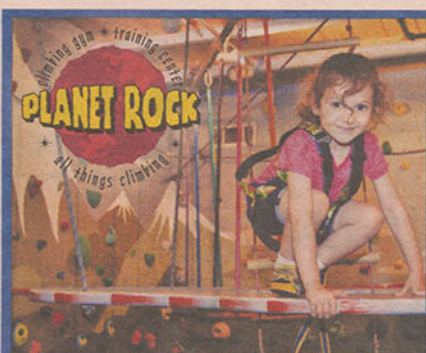
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sex, creed, national or ethnic origin in  
the enrollment of children.

sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. 1-2:30 & 4-5:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. \$11 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required at crazywisdom.net/fairie-teas.html. 665-2757.

★“Michigan’s US-12 Heritage Trail: America’s Second Federal Highway”: Daughters of the American Revolution. Talk by Gladys Saborio and Susan Kosky. 1 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 975-1976.

★“Family Hike: The Snowy Mile”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission Winter FunFest. WCPARC naturalist leads a 1-mile hike from the Marshall Nature Area to the Tom A. Freeman Preserve. Wear warm boots and layers. 2-4 p.m., meet at the Marshall Nature Area parking lot off Dixboro Rd. north of Plymouth Rd. Free. 971-6337, ext. 335.

★“Comic Drawing”: Ann Arbor District Library. Children’s writer and illustrator Ruth McNally Barshaw, author of the popular Ellie McDoodle Diaries series, shows kids in grades K-5 the basics of story creation, drawing characters, and more. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★“Women, Class, Performance: Helena Modjeska as Understudy and Impresario”: U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Duke University Slavic & Eurasian studies professor Beth Holmgren discusses the celebrated 19th-century Polish actress who emigrated to the U.S. mid-career to conquer the American stage. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★“Northern Slavery, the Art of Dissection, and A Doctor’s Fortune”: U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. University of Delaware black American studies and history professor P. Gabrielle Foreman discusses a Connecticut slave whose body continued to serve a family of white physicians long after his death. 4-6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

★“Rise and Fall of Lesbian Nation: A Brief History of Lesbian Feminism and What It Accomplished”: U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Talk by internationally known lesbian history and literature scholar Lillian Faderman. 4:10 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★“Patricia Urquiola: Thinking Hands”: U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series. Talk by this Spain-born, Italy-based architect and designer who is known for her unconventional and experimental furniture. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668-8463.

★Angela Flournoy: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. Reading by this Detroit novelist, a National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” honoree. Her highly acclaimed 2015 debut, *The Turner House*, concerns the inhabitants, past and present, of a Detroit house that is worth just a tenth of its mortgage. “One of those books that should, by rights, be described as the Great American Novel,” says an NPR review. “Perhaps the strongest character is Detroit itself, as it morphs from bustling modern metropolis to a potent symbol of post-industrial decline.” Signing. Flournoy also does a Q&A at 2 p.m. today in the Hopwood Room (1176 Angell Hall). 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. aireadm@umich.edu, 764-6330.

★“Neue Leben (New Lives)”: U-M German Department. Renowned German fiction writer Ingo Schulze reads (in German) from his 2005 novel, set in 1990 East Germany, about an aesthete-turned-capitalist antihero who comes to embody all the questionable aspects of life in both the old Germany and the Germany just taking form. Followed by a discussion (in English) by Schulze and Free University of Berlin German literature professor Jutta Müller-Tamm, who gives a lecture on Feb. 19 on “The Color of Vowels: Synesthesia and Physiology in Aesthetics, 1850-1900” (2-4 p.m., 3308 MLB). 5:30-7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 764-8018.

★“Chocolate & Cheese”: Zingerman’s Creamery. Zingerman’s Creamery retail manager Tessie Ives and Zingerman’s Candy Manufactory wholesale sales manager Allison Schraf discuss and offer taste samples of various Zingerman’s cheeses, from hard, nutty goudas to buttery soft, mold-ripened cheeses, paired with hand-crafted Zingerman’s chocolates. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman’s Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$35. 929-0500.

★Nerd Nite Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor District Library. Popular monthly event featuring several speakers TBA (at annarbor.nerdnite.com) who give fun yet informative talks, 18-21 minutes long, about topics that interest them, from nanoparticles to the science of the Simpsons and the genealogy of Godzilla. 7-9:30 p.m. or later (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Live, 102 S. First. Free. 327-4555.

★“A Picture Screen Stands in Solitude”: U-M Institute for the Humanities Living Room Series. The prominent contemporary American composer

Paul Drescher leads a trio in a performance of his work based on an essay written by San Quentin inmate Michael Nelson for an assignment given by artist Nigel Poor (see 15 Monday listing). Followed by a conversation by Poor and U-M dance department composer Stephen Rush about the origins of the piece, after which the piece is performed again. The first 50 audience members receive a limited edition copy of Nelson’s essay. 7 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 936-3518.

★“Sondheim on Sondheim”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★Nancy Ambrose King: U-M School of Music. This U-M oboe professor is joined by other U-M music professors in Mozart’s Oboe Quartet, Finger’s Sonata for Oboe and Trumpet, Krommer’s Partita for Wind Octet, and Telemann’s Tafelmusik for Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, and Continuo. With clarinetists Chad Burrow and Joshua Anderson, bassoonists Jeffrey Lyman and Cody Dean, hornists Adam Unsworth and Daniel Salera, flutist Amy Porter, harpsichordist and organist Joseph Gascho, trumpeter Bill Campbell, violinist Aaron Berofsky, violist Kathryn Votapek, cellist Anthony Elliot, bassist Scott Pingel, and oboist Andreas Oeste. 7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★“András Schiff: The Last Sonatas”: University Musical Society. See 16 Tuesday. Tonight’s program: Mozart’s Sonata no. 17 in B-flat major, Beethoven’s Sonata no. 31 in A-flat major, Haydn’s Sonata no. 61 in D major, and Schubert’s Sonata in A major. 7:30 p.m.

★“Clybourne Park”: U-M Theatre Department. Feb. 18-21. U-M theatre professor John Neville-Andrews directs U-M drama students in Bruce Norris’s sharp-witted 2010 comedy, a Pulitzer-winning spin-off of *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry’s 1959 drama about the problems faced by a black family seeking to buy a house in an all-white Chicago neighborhood. The 1st act of Norris’s play explores the plight of the white family selling the house, and the 2nd act, set in 2009, depicts the resistance faced by a white couple that wants to buy the house, which sits in a now all-black neighborhood resisting gentrification, in order to demolish it and replace it with a much larger home. “Bruce Norris’s sharp-witted, sharp-toothed comedy of American uneasiness... posits the idea of a nation (and even a world) trapped in a societal purgatory of ineptitude and anxiety,” says *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley in his review of the play. “Mr. Norris isn’t making any reassuring promises in this strong, ferociously smart play.” 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Lydia Mendelsohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets \$22 & \$28 (students, \$10) at the Michigan League in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

★“Silent City”: U-M Residential College. NYC-based fiction writer Carrie Smith (see 17 Wednesday listing) reads from her debut crime novel. 7:30 p.m., Benzinger Library, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-9960.

★“Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris”: The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 11 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★“Fortinbras”: U-M Musical Theatre Studio. Feb. 18-21. Malcolm Tulip directs U-M musical theater students in Lee Blessing’s 1991 drama about the precarious status of the man who having inherited the throne of Denmark after the death of Hamlet, must contend with the ire of Horatio and the large contingent of ghosts now roaming the halls of Elsinore. (Yes, musical theater students: they’re working on their acting skills.) 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets \$18 (students, \$12) at the Michigan League in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

★“Dream of the Red Chamber, the Opera”: U-M Opera Studio. U-M opera students present a workshop performance of librettist David Henry Huang and composer Bright Sheng’s new opera based on the classic Chinese novel, whose world premiere the San Francisco Opera will present in September. 8 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-2538.

★“The Odd Couple”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★“The Electric Baby”: Kickshaw Theatre. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★“Chesapeake”: Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.  
★Wayne Kennedy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Feb. 18-20. This Chicago comic is a ubiquitous presence on cable TV who’s known for his piercing, keen-witted takes on a wide range of social, cultural, and geopolitical matters. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 19 FRIDAY

★“Wolverine Classic 2016”: Gym America. Feb. 19-21. Nearly 1,000 women gymnasts compete in this national-level competition. Complete schedule available at gymamericagymnastics.com. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (tentative), Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Admission \$11 (seniors & students, \$6; kids age 4 & under, free; 2-day pass, \$17 for adults & \$9 for seniors & students). 971-1667.

★“The Passage of Time and the Cultural Psychology of Mental Health in Buddhist Thailand”: U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Lecture by Washington State University anthropology professor Julia Cassaniti. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

★“But Is That Even a ‘Real’ Museum?”: U-M Museum Studies Program. U-M museum studies grad student Alicia Juilet discusses exhibits at the Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum. Noon, UMMA Multipurpose Room, 525 S. State. Free. 936-6678.

★“Embodied Avatars: Genealogies of Black Feminist Art and Performance”: U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. UCLA English, African American, and gender studies professor Uri McMillan discusses his book. 2:10 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★“Enchanting Static”: U-M Anthropology Department Rappaport Lecture Series. U-M anthropology professor Alaina Lemon presents the 1st in a series of 4 monthly lectures on “Communication and Enchantment.” 3 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall (4th floor). Free. 764-7274.

★U-M Center for South Asian Studies Lecture Series. Feb. 19 & 22. Lectures by visiting scholars. Feb. 19: London Natural History Museum zoology researcher Mark Wilkinson on “Advances in the Study of Cryptic South Asian Biodiversity.” Feb. 22: University of Warwick history professor Sarah Hodges on “Biotrash: The Afterlives of Medical Garbage in India.” 4-6 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 615-4059.

★“Fix-It Friday”: Maker Works. All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, and more. Maker Works members and staff will be on hand to help fix things and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. 4-6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. 222-4911.

★“On Not Letting Sounds Be Themselves”: U-M School of Music. Eastman School of Music musicology professor Holly Watkins discusses the modernist notion of “sounds themselves,” developed by nature-loving composers such as John Cage and John Luther Adams. 5 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Watkins Lecture Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★“Sounds of Motown and Other Hits of the ‘60s and ‘70s”: Ann Arbor City Club. Open house with dancing to live music by the Clarkston-based Rick Lieder Band. Hors d’oeuvres, cash bar. ‘60s and ‘70s attire encouraged. 6-10 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$20. Reservations required by Feb. 15 at annarbor-cityclub.org or by phone. 662-3279, ext. 1.

★“Friends and Music at Calvary”: Calvary Presbyterian Church. All adults and teens with special needs invited for singing, dancing, and activities. Caregivers welcome. Food. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Free. Preregistration requested. specialneeds@calvary2.com, 971-3121.

★“Artini 2016”: Ann Arbor Art Center Fundraiser. All age 21 & over invited to visit 10 downtown restaurants and bars to taste martinis created for the occasion. 7 p.m., begins at the Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. \$55 in advance at annarborartcenter.org/artini-2016. 994-8004.

★“Radical Remission: Surviving Cancer Against All Odds”: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Book Discussion. Crazy Wisdom staff member Rachel Pastiva leads a discussion of psychotherapist Kelly Turner’s book based on her study of more than a thousand cases of radical remission in people diagnosed with terminal cancer. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including poet Francis Santana and fiction writer Cab Tran. 7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ferris State. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. Ticket price TBA at stubhub.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-tickets. 764-0247.

★Moon Jung Kim: U-M School of Music. Performance by this visiting U-M piano professor. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m., U-M Moore School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★“Dawn Dance Weekend”: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Feb. 19-21.



A weekend of contra, English country, square, and couples dancing to live music, with around 400 people expected to dance or just listen to the many fine musicians. The highlights of this year's festival include visiting callers **Bev Bernbaum** and **Joseph Pimentel** and live music by the contra band **Maivish** and English country dancing band **Goldcrest**. Wear clean shoes for dancing (no dancing in street shoes allowed). Updated schedule at [aactmad.org/ddw](http://aactmad.org/ddw). 8 p.m.-midnight (Feb. 19 & 20), 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Feb. 20), & 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Feb. 21), **Clague Middle School**, 2616 Nixon Rd. just east of Bluett. \$22 (Feb. 19 & 21), \$20 (Feb. 20 afternoon), and \$25 (Feb. 20 evening) at the door. Weekend pass \$85 (members, \$75; those age 30 & under, \$45). 658-8228.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Oriol Sans conducts this ensemble of music majors in Brahms' Serenade no. 1, one of his first orchestral works, which combines classical instrumental forces, a strong Romantic drive, and a delightful pastoral character. The program also includes Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite*, a work well known for its catchy melodies, bold rhythms, and surprising orchestral colors. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. 8 p.m., **Hill Auditorium**. Free. 615-3204.

★**"The Triplets of Belleville Cine-Concert": University Musical Society.** Screening of Sylvain Chomet's 2003 Oscar-nominated animated film, at once goofy and frightening, about 3 aged eccentric female music hall stars who befriend an old woman and her dog as they help her search for her grandson, a cyclist who is kidnapped during the Tour de France. The film's score composer, Benoît Charest, conducts his 8-piece ensemble, **Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville**, in the live score, an acclaimed set composed in the style of 1920s Parisian jazz. 8 p.m., **Michigan Theater**. Tickets \$26-\$54 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org) & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Fortinbras": U-M Musical Theatre Studio.** See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Clybourne Park": U-M Theatre Department.** See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova.** See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.  
★**Dwayne Kennedy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 20 SATURDAY

★**"ScienceFest: Physicspalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Feb. 20 & 21. Members of the U-M Society of Physics Students give physics demos on motion, inertia, electricity, and other topics. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Feb. 20) & noon-4 p.m. (Feb. 21), **AAHOM**, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★**Grange Junior Makers: Pittsfield Grange.** Kids, accompanied by a participating adult, invited to work on electronics, robotics, and woodworking projects TBA. 10 a.m.-noon, **Pittsfield Grange**, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 926-5079.

★**29th Annual Winter Fleece Fair: Spinner's Flock.** A huge array of Michigan-grown fibers for spinning and felting and handspun yarns. Also, supplies for spinning, weaving, knitting, and felting. Members offer demos throughout the day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., **Beach Middle School**, 445 Mayer, Chelsea. Free admission. [spinnersflock.com](http://spinnersflock.com), 475-7922, 769-1657.

★**Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death led by participants. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Marilynne Rush. Tea & Cake served. 10 a.m.-noon, **Crazy Wisdom Tearoom**, 114 S. Main. Free. 395-9660.

★**"Gardening with Heirloom Varieties": Project Grow.** Talk by Project Grow instructor Royer Held. 10 a.m.-noon, **Leslie Science Center**, 1831 Traver Rd. \$5. Space limited; preregistration requested. 996-3169.

★**"Species Cattleas": Great Lakes Judging (Orchids).** Accredited orchid judge Diane Burton discusses this group of showy orchids. Also, accredited judge Dennis Seffernick discusses Stanhopeas, a group of complex and often fragrant orchids. 11 a.m., **U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens**, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647-7600.

★**"Health and Wellness: Strategies for Coping and Healing from Loss through Art and Writing": Ann Arbor District Library.** A 3-part program: U-M Center for Reproductive Medicine social workers Lindsay Brennan and Lesley Farrell discuss coping strategies for grief and loss. MSU creative writing instructor Robin Silbergeld reads from *The Baby Book*, her recent collection of poems about her journey from infertility to motherhood, and she leads participants in a short exercise for expressing their experiences through imaginative letter writing. **Art of Infertility**

cofounders Maria Novotny and Elizabeth Walker discuss this traveling exhibit and help participants make a personalized keepsake box. 1-3 p.m., **AADL secret lab (lower level)**, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Pom-Pom Launchers": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K-5 invited to use household items to make a launcher that can send small pom-poms flying. Materials provided. 2-3 p.m., **AADL Mallets Creek Branch**, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Winter Beach Blast": Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Fundraiser.** An indoor beach-themed party with live entertainment by **Steve Iott**, a Michigan comedian who's appeared on Comedy Central and opened for Jay Leno. Followed by live music by **50 Amp Fuse**, a very popular Detroit band that plays 70s and 80s classic rock. Note: This event usually sells out. 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m., **Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds**, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Tickets \$50 in advance at [cf-partyforbreath.com](http://cf-partyforbreath.com). 429-3028.

★**A2 Dhoom: Michigan Mazaa.** Bollywood-fusion dance competition featuring 8 collegiate teams from around the country. Proceeds benefit End Slavery Now, a nonprofit that fights human trafficking. 6:30 p.m., **Michigan Theater**. Tickets \$12 & \$15 in advance at [michiganmazaa.com](http://michiganmazaa.com) and all Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone: (800) 745-3000.

★**International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folkdancers.** Dancing to recorded music. No partner needed; beginners welcome. The program begins with a lesson. 7-10 p.m., **the barn at Gretchen's House V**, 2625 Traver. \$5 (students, \$3). 709-8748.

★**Whiskey Charmers: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert.** Classy Detroit neo-honkytonk quartet, fronted by singer-guitarist Carrie Shepard of Some Velvet Evening, that bills its music as "electric heartbreak on the rocks." 8 p.m., **Mangiamo**, 107 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$15 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429-0060.

★**Straight Ahead: Kerrytown Concert House.** This Grammy-nominated Detroit jazz band was founded as an all-female ensemble more than 25 years ago by acoustic bassist **Marion Hayden**, pianist **Alina Moore**, and drummer **Gayelynn McKinney**. The group now includes saxophonist **Yancy** and vocalist **Kymberli Wright**. 8 p.m., **KCH**, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15-\$30 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com), 769-2999.

★**"András Schiff: The Last Sonatas": University Musical Society.** See 16 Tuesday. Tonight's program: Haydn's Sonata no. 62 in E-flat major, Beethoven's Sonata no. 32 in C minor, Mozart's Sonata no. 18 in D major, and Schubert's Sonata in B-flat major. 8 p.m.

★**"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 4 Thursday. Tonight's show is followed by a reception and discussion led by Lamaze Family Center representatives. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Fortinbras": U-M Musical Theatre Studio.** See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Clybourne Park": U-M Theatre Department.** See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova.** See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**Dwayne Kennedy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 21 SUNDAY

★**"Emma Lazarus": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society Book Club.** All invited to discuss Princeton University English professor Esther Schor's biography of the 19th-century Jewish poet and activist who wrote the poem inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Noon-2 p.m., **Jewish Community Center**, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

★**"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement. 1-1:40 p.m., **AADL Pittsfield Branch**, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Lego Connection": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lego open play for kids in grades K-5 accompanied by an adult. Legos supplied. 1-2:30 p.m., **AADL Mallets Creek Branch**, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. 1-4 p.m., **AADL Traverwood Branch**, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4200.

★**"Paphiopedilums": Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Talk by Little Frog Farm (Stockbridge) owner Rob Halgren, who also leads an orchid workshop. Also, orchids for sale. 2-5 p.m., **U-M Matthaei Botanical**

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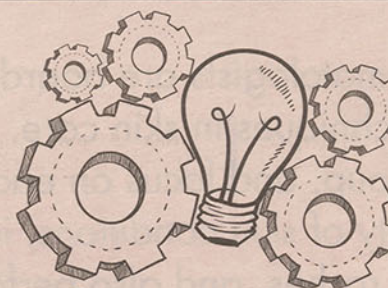
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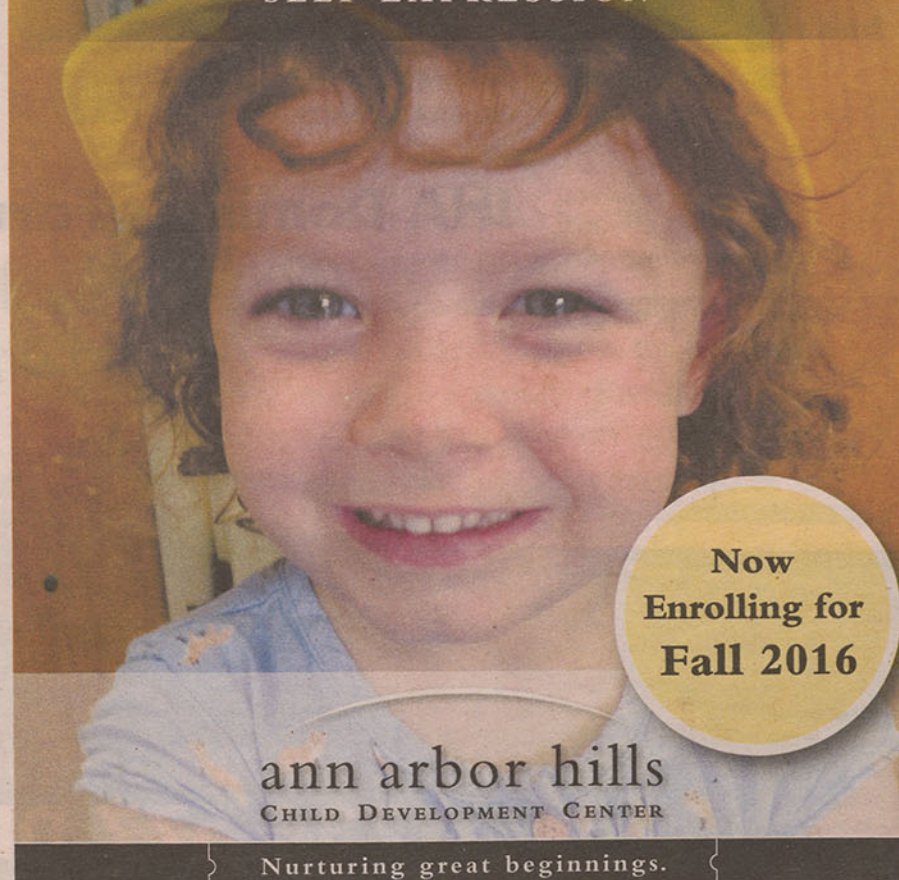
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## Comic Opera Guild

### *The Barber of Seville*

In the middle of a Sunday night snowstorm, tenors, altos, and sopranos trickle into the Northside Community Church. The singers introduce themselves enthusiastically, unwrap their scarved throats, and file into the first few rows. I sit in a pew just behind the bass section, close enough to read the sheet music over broad shoulders: *The Barber of Seville* by Gioachino Rossini. The Comic Opera Guild will be premiering its version at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre February 25–27, with direction by Mitchell Gillett.

Based on the 1775 play by Pierre Beaumarchais, *Barber* tells the story of Count Almaviva's quest for the hand of Rosina, a comely pupil living under the roof of her teacher, the watchful Doctor Bartolo, who plans to have her for himself. With the hired help of Figaro, the devious barber of Seville, Almaviva puts on masks and pulls off schemes to get past Bartolo's door.

The Comic Opera Guild chose *Barber* because it's relatively short, genuinely funny, and accessible to theatergoers not otherwise inclined toward opera. While many opera companies are building modern sets to win the favor of newer generations, COG has a different approach: English. Instead of having to read surtitles and getting the joke five seconds after it's been sung, patrons can appreciate innuendo, alliteration, and rhyme schemes in their native tongue. COG's managing director, Thomas Petiet (who will also be performing), has translated the book in a way that accentuates rather than restricts the singers' voices—something often lost in libretto translations by nonmusicians.



Audiences can expect a harpsichord, dirty linen, humor, and harmony. Principal roles are double cast. The Rosinas are delightfully rebellious; the deep bass of both Bartolos have the authority of a lion's roar; the tenor voices of Count Almaviva are pure as his love for Rosina; and the Figaro I witnessed in early rehearsals is playful and forthright with his motives: "money for fashion, money forever, money's my passion; what can I say?"

The esteemed Nada Radakovich conducts. At the flick of her wrist, all mouths open simultaneously. The sound is soft yet powerful, layered, open-voweled, and fluttering. Radakovich compares singing Rossini to flying—all that ornamentation, all that feeling.

Rossini is famous for the bel canto form of the early nineteenth century. As Petiet explains, where Shakespeare's era stuffed its text with words, the bel canto style, which translates literally to "beautiful singing," was packed with notes. A one-syllable word easily becomes a five-syllable sound.

Soon after the Count refers to Bartolo as "Doctor Demented," the full company sings "We'll go to prison" in a heavy wave of choral harmony. That's the charm of comic opera. The libretto will have you laughing, and, in a beat, the music will carry you away.

—Leah O'Donnell

Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. [aaosonline.org](http://aaosonline.org)

**"Secrets of Survival": Winter Nature Programs: Waterloo Natural History Association.** WNHA naturalist Paul McCormack brings a variety of live animals for an entertaining, hands-on introduction to the adaptations they use to help them find food, water, and shelter. 2–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot (except as noted), Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. \$2 (families, \$5). Space limited; preregistration required. \$10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.

**★"Through the Ages": U-M Natural History Museum Family Reading & Science Program.** All kids ages 6–11 (accompanied by a parent or guardian) invited to learn about the Big Bang Theory and explore fun ways to measure large-scale time. 2–3 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. Preregistration required. 764–0480.

**Gemini: Michigan Friends Center Winterfest.** The popular Ann Arbor acoustic duo of twin brothers Sander and Laszlo Slomovits performs original songs and traditional music from around the globe in a benefit for the Friends Center. Preceded at 1 p.m. by family-oriented winter activities. 2 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clarks Lake Rd. (off Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Tickets \$10 (family, \$25) in advance and at the door. 475–1892.

**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

**"Fortinbras": U-M Musical Theatre Studio.** See 18 Thursday. 2 p.m.

**"Clybourne Park": U-M Theatre Department.** See 18 Thursday. 2 p.m.

**"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova.** See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

**★"Groundhog's Dilemma": Nicola's Books.** Children's writer Kristen Remenar and illustrator Matt Faulkner read from their picture book about a groundhog who leads his friends to believe he controls

the weather. Signing. 3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.

**★Vincent Dubois: U-M School of Music.** Performance by this U-M visiting artist, an award-winning French organist with an international reputation. 3 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.

**★Dexter Community Orchestra.** Anthony Elliott conducts this volunteer ensemble in Debussy's symphonic poem *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, with flute soloist Laura Hogan, and Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos, with U-M piano professors Christopher Harding and Louis Nagel. Also, the Pulitzer Prize-winning U-M composing professor emeritus Leslie Bassett's *Echoes from an Invisible World*. 4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355–0725.

**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 4 Thursday. 4 p.m.

**★"The Paying Guests": Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Sarah Waters' historical novel, a crime story set in 1922 London about an impoverished widow and her spinster daughter who take in lodgers that shake up their lives. 4:30–6 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 325 Braun Ct. Free. [lorrelsu@hotmail.com](mailto:lorrelsu@hotmail.com)

**"Stage Time": Emergent Arts.** See 7 Sunday. Tonight: Emergent Arts director Tim Henning hosts an evening of comedy and music. 7:30 p.m.

**★"Love and Information": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama students in Kate Mendeloff's play production seminar direct and perform renowned English playwright Caryl Churchill's acclaimed 2012 play about relationships in the digital age, presented as an evolving mosaic of more than 50 fragmented and superficially unconnected scenes. 8 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.

## 22 MONDAY

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**Cognitive Science": U-M Annual Henry Russel Lecture.** Lecture by U-M mathematical & cognitive psychology professor David E. Meyer. The Russel Award is the U-M's highest honor, awarded annually to a faculty member who is especially distinguished in his or her field. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 615-0520.

★**"Folk Song Sing-Along."** All invited to join a family-oriented recreational sing-along of folk songs. Bring your guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments if you'd like to jam along as well. Lyrics and chords are projected on a screen for singers and strummers. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorzyczewski. 7 p.m., First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 426-7818.

## 23 TUESDAY

★**"A conjunction in time long past": Language and Earth in the Renaissance:** U-M Institute for the Humanities. University of Toronto English professor Marjorie Rubright explores how Renaissance philologist Richard Verstegan's ideas about the history of language led him to propose a theory of continental drift. 12:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, rm. 1022. Free. 936-3518.

★**"Learning from Europe? Prisons, Punishment, and American Exceptionalism":** U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Talk by Georgetown University government professor Marc Howard, director of the Georgetown University Initiative on Prisons and Justice. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★**"To See is to Believe: The Body Made Visible":** U-M Distinguished University Professorship Lecture. U-M dance professor Peter Sparling discusses his 45-year career choreographing and performing dance on stage and on camera. Sparling also presents an installation of his recent screendances, Feb. 24-26 (see listing). 4 p.m., Duderstadt Center Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 647-2288.

★**"Health and Wellness: Detox the Safe and Healthy Way":** Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by local yoga instructor and raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Controlled Ecological Burn Public Meeting":** Ann Arbor District Library/Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation. A chance to find out about the nature and purpose of the ecological burns the city conducts in city parks on weekdays throughout the spring and fall. The city holds a training session (preregistration required by Feb. 22 by calling 794-6627 or email to NAP@a2gov.org) at Leslie Science & Nature Center at noon on Feb. 24 for volunteers to help with the burns. 7-8:30 p.m., NAP office, 3875 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Drumcommunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★**Literati Book Club: Literati Bookstore.** All invited to discuss *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates's book, partly framed as a letter to his son, about U.S. racial history and contemporary racism. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★**"The Book of Unknown Americans: A Novel":** 2016 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads. Novelist Cristina Henriquez reads from and discusses her critically acclaimed 2014 novel, the 2016 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads selection. It's the story of a 15-year-old girl whose family must leave their life in Mexico and emigrate to Delaware so she can receive medical care. When she falls in love with their Panamanian American neighbor's son, their love has the potential to devastate everyone involved. Signing. 7-8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.), Rackham Auditorium. Free. 327-4555.

★**Jonas Kaufmann: An Evening with Puccini:** Fathom Events. Concert documentary of acclaimed German tenor Kaufmann's 2015 performance at La Scala (Milan), including archive footage and an interview with Kaufmann. 7 p.m. (Quality 16) & 7:30 p.m. (Rave), Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). \$14 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/jonas-kaufmann. 623-7469 (Quality 16), 973-8424 (Rave).

## 24 WEDNESDAY

★**"Tiny Tot Walks":** Leslie Science & Nature Center. All kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a leisurely, guided walk along LSNC trails to see what's happening in nature. 10-11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 (members, \$3) per child. 997-1553.

★**"No Thanks, I've Had Enough Sheep Brains":** Developing Your Cross-Cultural Competence. Ann Arbor City Club Lunch and Learn. Talk by U-M business administration professor John Branch. Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw.

\$30 (members, \$25). Reservations required by Feb. 19. 662-3279, ext. 1.

★**"Chinese Minzu Music and Dance: A Film Presentation":** U-M Confucius Institute. U-M ethnomusicology professor Lester Monts hosts a screening of a film he led a group of videographers in making last fall. It captures samples of music and dance performances by various Chinese ethnic minorities in various Chinese cities. Noon-1 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 764-8888.

★**"To See is to Believe: The Body Made Visible":** U-M Dance Department. Feb. 24-26. U-M dance professor Peter Sparling presents an installation of his recent video dances for multiple screens on the Pop-Up Projection Pavilion, a 3-screen projection system designed by U-M architecture professor Robert Adams. Noon-6 p.m., Duderstadt Center Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 647-2288.

★**Brown Bag Organ Recital Series: U-M School of Music.** 30-minute concert by the U-M Baroque Chamber Orchestra. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish; food available at the Crossroads Café. 12:15 p.m., U-M SPH Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615-3204.

★**"The Odd Couple":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**"Refugees and Health Care Policies: How Does Europe Cope?":** U-M Center for European Studies Conversations on Europe. Talk by Bilkent University (Ankara, Turkey) political science professor Saime Ozgurmez. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

★**"Zen & the Art of Coloring":** Ann Arbor District Library. All adults invited to see if they can attain a meditative state of mind by coloring pages from Joanna Basford's popular *Secret Garden*, *Enchanted Forest*, and brand-new *Lost Ocean* coloring books. Supplies provided. Refreshments. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Readings by Joy Gaines-Friedler, a widely published Detroit-area poet who has published 2 collections, and Scott Beal, a local performance poet whose 2015 debut collection *Wait 'Til You Have Real Problems*, deploys familiar characters from Rapunzel to Perseus and whimsically surreal tall tales to explore the varied and violent forces that shape human identities. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mike. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**"Les Liaisons Dangereuses":** National Theatre Live (University Musical Society). Broadcast of the National Theatre (London) production of Christopher Hampton's tragicomedy, an adaptation of Pierre Choderlos de Laclos's 1782 novel about 2 French aristocrats who form an unholy alliance to turn seduction into an exploitive game—which they play with wit and style until they encounter rules they cannot understand. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$22 (Michigan Theater members & UMS donors & subscribers, \$18) in advance at tickets.ums.org, the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss *Joseph Banks: A Life*, Patrick O'Brian's biography of the legendary explorer who cofounded Australia. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**"The Underground Railroad in Washtenaw County":** Salem Area Historical Society. Talk by the African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County vice chair Deborah Meadows. The program begins with a brief business meeting. 7:30 p.m., Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile Rd., Salem. \$2 (members, free). (248) 437-6651.

★**Wind Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music.** Wind and brass students perform works TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** This ensemble of music majors is joined by the U-M Saxophone Ensemble in Louis Andriessen's epic *Workers Union*. The percussion ensemble also performs John Cage's *In a Landscape*, William Russell's *Four Dance Movements*, as well as selections from George Crumb's landmark *Music for a Summer Evening (Makrokosmos III)* for 2 pianists and 2 percussionists. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 25 THURSDAY

★**"Mapping Edo's Districts During the Mid-Nineteenth Century":** U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Lecture by MacLean Collection (Chicago) Asian art curator Richard Pegg. Noon-1:30 p.m., U-M Clark Library, 260A Hatcher Grad Library, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-6307.





## George Benson & Glenn Tucker

*Detroit jazz across  
the generations*

Jazz in Detroit relies heavily on tradition. This has never been simply a matter of local pride, but recognition of the unique musical history of the city and a consequence of robust community bonds. More often than not, a performance by a major Detroit jazz artist will include musicians of diverse generations, providing youngsters opportunities to learn on the stage alongside the elders.

One of the great statesmen of Motor City jazz is saxophonist George Benson. For years he has been playing in clubs, in show orchestra pits, and on recordings. In addition to playing jazz, he took part as a sideman in many of the classic Motown recordings during the Sixties and continued to do concert work with groups such as the Temptations. He has taught generations of saxophonists and has even published a book of saxophone etudes for improvisers.

Although he can adapt to any situation, Benson's jazz playing is unique and immediately recognizable. His musical roots, especially his rhythmic concepts, lie in the swing era, enhanced by bebop, and then influenced to some degree by the work of John Coltrane and his associates. He has a characteristic personal sound on his horns, each of which he approaches in a very different manner: his



alto saxophone sound combines the creamy approach of players such as Benny Carter with a bluesy inflection akin to Earl Bostic and a slight bite that works well on ballads and blues. His tenor sound is narrower and more focused but ringing, with a broad array of articulations and often filled with blues inflections. His ballads may be soft, but when he turns to pure blues, he goes down deep and brings out the rougher gritty urban profile of the form.

Recently Benson has been playing in a duo with pianist Glenn Tucker. Although relatively young, Tucker has been establishing a reputation as a versatile pianist who works in a broad range of stylistic contexts. He studied at the U-M under the tutelage of another Detroit, Geri Allen, absorbing her stylistically broad way of thinking. Tucker leads a number of his own groups, often playing his own quite modern compositions, but in the duo with Benson, he works as accompanist and soloist to equal degrees. In this context he is more traditional and, following Benson's example, works with blues inflections from various eras and with classic bebop phrasing and harmonic substitutions.

Benson composed all the tunes on their recently published CD, *Dreamers*, in a style that digs deep into the timeless aspects of jazz in a relaxed and yet emotionally direct manner. This is jazz stripped down to emotional essentials, with two masters of time who are in no need of bass and drums. They perform at Kerrytown Concert House on Friday, February 26.

—Piotr Michalowski



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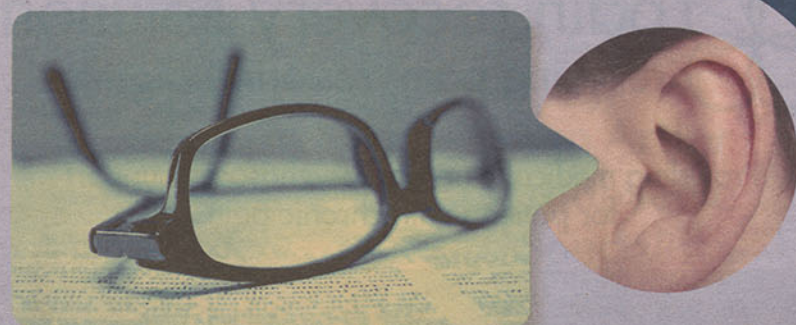


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★“Screenance Exhibition: Pop-Up Projection Pavilion”: U-M Distinguished University Professorship Lecture. See 24 Wednesday. Noon–6 p.m.

★“The Timeless and the Timely: Sacralizing Political Activism in the Campaign for Soviet Jewry”: U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Lecture by Vanderbilt University sociology and Jewish studies professor Shaul Kelner. 12:15 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer St. Free. 763–9047.

★International Neighbors. Members display their knitting, quilting, painting, origami, dancing, and musical talents. All area women invited. Refreshments. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Also, a chance to sign up for club activity groups, including help with English. 1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 930–9962.

★Shadreck Chikoti: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. This internationally recognized Malawian writer and social activist reads from his work. He won the 2013 Peer Gynt Literary Award for his sci-fi fantasy *Azotus the Kingdom*. Signing. Chikoti also does a Q&A at 2 p.m. today in the Hopwood Room (1176 Angell Hall). 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. [aireadm@umich.edu](mailto:aireadm@umich.edu), 764–6330.

★“Cheese Showdown: Old World vs. New World”: Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's staff compare and offer taste samples of the best American artisanal cheeses and classic European cheeses in various styles, including brie, cheddar, gruyere, blue

cheese, and lactic goat cheeses. 6–8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$35. 929–0500.

★“Gardening and Landscaping with Native Plants”: Ann Arbor District Library. Creating Sustainable Landscapes (Novi) owner Drew Lathin discusses types of native plants, what they are useful for, and where they grow best, and he offers tips for creating your own sustainable garden or landscape. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.

★“Sondheim on Sondheim”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★“Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris”: The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 11 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★“The Barber of Seville”: Comic Opera Guild. Feb. 25–27. See review, p. 73. Mitchell Gilbert directs this veteran local company in Rossini's ever-popular comic opera. The ardent Count Almaviva loves the beautiful Rosina, but Rosina's crotchety old guardian wants to marry the girl himself. With the help of Figaro, the wily town barber, the young lovers are eventually united. A masterpiece of the bel canto repertory, the opera abounds with familiar melodies, including the famous overture, Rosina's aria “Una voce poco fa,” and Figaro's aria “Largo al factotum.” Performed in a new English version commissioned for this production. Cast TBA. Live orchestra conducted by Nada Radakovic. 8 p.m. (Feb. 25–27) & 2 p.m. (Feb. 27), Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. \$15 on Feb. 25 & \$20





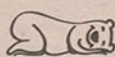
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## newgrass



### Mipso

Traditional ideas,  
new experiences

The members of the bluegrass quartet Mipso met as students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and chose the name because they wanted something unique—even now, they say, when you Google Mipso you find only them. They “took alternating years off school,” mandolinist Jacob Sharp told the *Bluegrass Situation*, and they played enough gigs that their skill as instrumentalists and as songwriters began to develop. When their second album, *Dark Holler Pop*, hit number eight on *Billboard*’s bluegrass chart, they knew they had something worth keeping.

That title suggests a fusion of opposites, as does Mipso’s designation of themselves as “renegade traditionalists.” Broadly, they fall among the group of young bands who have heard many kinds of music and have gravitated toward playing it on acoustic instruments as a way of making it all their own. Yet they don’t simply transfer alternative rock, jazz, or other music to bluegrass instruments. All their songs are originals, and all start with the imagery, vocal harmonies, and instrumental sounds of traditional bluegrass as a framework even as they explore experiences any contemporary college student might have and

bring in freer song forms and funkier beats. It’s an arresting and novel combination.

Mipso sings of love and of the forces that make relationships fly apart, of taking to the road, of how to find meaning in life in the absence of old certainties. They can pull off a genuinely experimental lyric in a song like “Bad Penny,” in which a statue of Abraham Lincoln begins to talk, in a cleaner way than your average jam band. And they give a sense of how hard it can be for young Southerners to shed the small towns where they grew up.

Mipso’s immediate ancestors are Nickel Creek and especially the North Carolina band the Steep Canyon Rangers, who gained fame when they toured with Steve Martin. But their songs, although less virtuosic—“if people ... expect a Tony Rice solo, well, I’m definitely not going to deliver,” bassist Wood Robinson has said—have more of a personal and lived-in quality than those of either band. If you’re looking for that elusive 1960s mood in which young bands took to the road with fresh ideas about how to use folk traditions, you’ll find a good measure of it here.

In North Carolina Mipso is now playing venues that seat audiences in the high hundreds of people. They recently released their third album, *Old Time Reverie*. It feels like the future of acoustic music, and Mipso brings it to the Ark on Sunday, February 28 (see Nightspots).

—James M. Manheim

(seniors & students, \$17) on Feb. 26 & 27 in advance at [barberofseville.brownpapertickets.com](http://barberofseville.brownpapertickets.com) and by phone at (800) 838-3006, and at the door. 973-3264.

“The Whale”: PTD Productions. Feb. 25–28 & Mar. 2–5. Nathan Corliss directs local actors in Samuel Hunter’s drama, set in Northern Idaho, about a morbidly obese gay man who reaches out to his estranged teenage daughter in what may be the last days of his life. An unexpected meeting with a Mormon missionary gives him an opportunity to understand the mystery of his lover’s death. Note: Adult themes and language. Cast: Chad D’Aigle, Mary Hopper, Jen Shanfelt, Eli Tell, and Phoenix Vlasin. 8 p.m. (except Feb. 28 and Mar. 2, 2 p.m.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$18 (students & seniors, \$12; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com), by phone, and at the door. [ptdproductions.com](http://ptdproductions.com), 483-7345.

“The Odd Couple”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

“Chesapeake”: Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Derick Lengwenus: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Feb. 25–27. Acclaimed French Canadian comic known for his hilarious character performances, including a popular autobiographical routine about his German father. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

### 26 FRIDAY

★“Screenance Exhibition: Pop-Up Projection Pavilion”: U-M Distinguished University Professorship Lecture. See 24 Wednesday. Noon–6 p.m.

“Seussical Jr.”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. Feb. 26–28 & Mar. 4–6. Thalia Schramm directs young local actors in Lynn Ahrens and Stephen

Flaherty’s musical compendium of Dr. Seuss stories. Stars Kylie Scarpace, Sarah Grace Cattell, Cora-Melin Mikat, Matthew Rupp, Chloe Scarpace, and Zori Martinez. 7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$20 (youth & seniors, \$15) in advance at [theencoretheatre.org](http://theencoretheatre.org) and at the door. 268-6200.

“2016 Annual Rent Party”: Jazzistry. Dancing to this local educational jazz history ensemble that’s led by saxophonist and clarinetist Vincent York, which tonight showcases New Orleans jazz, Afro-Cuban music, and the music of Motown. Performers include vocalist Joan York and some of Detroit’s top jazz musicians—pianist Gary Schunk, guitarist Ron English, trumpeter John Douglas, trombonist Chris Smith, timbales player Olman Piedra, drummer Leonard King, and bassist Ralphie Armstrong. Hors d’oeuvres, cash bar. A fundraiser for Jazzistry’s award-winning K–12 educational programs. 7:30–10 p.m., EMU Student Center Grand Ballroom, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. \$40 (students, \$20) in advance, \$50 (students, \$25) at the door. 761-6024.

George Benson & Glenn Tucker: Kerrytown Concert House. See review, p. 75. Detroit master jazz saxophonist Benson and local jazz composer-pianist Tucker perform a program in celebration of Benson’s 87th birthday and the release of the duo’s new CD, *Dreamers*, a compilation of Benson’s originals from the 1950s to the present, most of which have never been recorded. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15–\$30 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com), 769-2999.

“The Barber of Seville”: Comic Opera Guild. See 25 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“Sondheim on Sondheim”: The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“The Odd Couple”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.



"The Whale": PTD Productions. See 25 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Derick Lengwenus: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 25 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 27 SATURDAY

"Pop-Up Makerspace": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Feb. 27 & 28. All invited to try a hands-on "Happy City" engineering activity. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Feb. 27) & noon-4 p.m. (Feb. 28), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★"Family Art Studio: Art from South and Southeast Asia": UMMA. Families with kids ages 6-12 invited to make decorative stencils inspired by the traditional temple art on display at the museum. Local artist Susan Clinthorne is on hand to offer guidance. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2-4 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free, but preregistration required by emailing [umma-program-registration@umich.edu](mailto:umma-program-registration@umich.edu) (include date & title of program in the subject line; indicate which session you'd like to attend and the number of adults & children in your group). 764-0395.

"Brick Bash 2016": Skyline High School Band Fundraiser. This public LEGO building party for all ages includes piles of LEGO, Duplo, and Bionicle parts to play with. Also, a performance by the Skyline Drumline (2 p.m.), a percussion petting zoo, a Duplo play area for young kids, and displays of amazing models by LEGO hobbyists from around the country. Sale of LEGO jewelry, custom sets, and publications. Concessions. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple. \$5 (families, \$20). BrickBash.com, 637-9429.

★"Sap to Syrup": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner demonstrates how to make maple syrup. Note: The 1 p.m. program is geared towards families with kids age 4 & up. The 3 p.m. program is adults only. 1 & 3 p.m., County Farm Park Field Operations bldg., Platt Rd. entrance. Free; preregistration required. [stonerf@washtenaw.org](mailto:stonerf@washtenaw.org); 971-6337, ext. 334.

★Gaming Tournaments: Ann Arbor District Library. Feb. 27 & 28. Video game tournaments. Prizes. Feb. 27: "Mario Kart." For all ages. Feb. 28: "Wii Sports Resort." For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 1-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

Annual Fundraising Banquet: Washtenaw County Pheasants Forever. Buffet dinner, live and silent auctions, and raffles. 5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Tickets \$85 (includes 1-year membership) in advance only. Add-on spouse tickets, \$30. Reservations required. [washtenawpf.org](http://washtenawpf.org)

"Seussical Jr.": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 7 p.m.

"29th Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. Feb. 27 & 28 (different programs). Performances for adults (Sat.) & families (Sun.) by top-notch storytellers from around the country and the state. Headliners are 2 storytellers whose commentaries have been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*. Kevin Kling is a Minneapolis storyteller who specializes in autobiographical tales about everything from growing up in Minnesota and eating things before knowing what they are to hopping freight trains and getting his play banned in Czechoslovakia. Bill Harley is a Massachusetts songwriter and storyteller with an off-center point of view whose stories paint vibrant and hilarious pictures of growing up, schooling, and family life. Opening act is Yvonne Healy, a Brighton-based raconteur named Top Irish Storyteller in the USA whose repertoire includes weird Irish legends, outrageous family tales, and more. 7:30 p.m. (Sat.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 (Sat.) & \$10 (Sun. family concert) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office ([mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)) & [theark.org](http://theark.org), and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Ron White: Michigan Theater Foundation. Best known as a member of Jeff Foxworthy's "Blue Collar Comedy Tour," this veteran Texas stand-up comic is known for a point of view that's politically incorrect in both the red and the blue states and for a cigar-chomping, scotch-drinking, flamboyantly disreputable onstage persona that masks a razor-sharp wit and unflappably sweet temper. He has released 4 chart-topping CDs, including *A Little Unprofessional*, which was nominated for a 2014 Grammy. Opening act TBA. 7:30 & 10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$49.75 & \$59.75 in advance at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and all Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

"The Barber of Seville": Comic Opera Guild. See 25 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Whale": PTD Productions. See 25 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Derick Lengwenus: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 25 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 28 SUNDAY

"Brewing Methods": Zingerman's Coffee Company. Zingerman's Coffee Co. staff demonstrate and discuss 6-8 different ways to brew coffee, from filter drip to siphon pot. 1-3 p.m., Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$30. 929-6060.

"28th Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. See 27 Saturday. Today's program is a family show. 1 p.m.

★"Find Your American Ancestor Using Canadian Records": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by Ontario Genealogical Society genealogist Kathryn Lake Hogan. Followed by a talk by club member Barbara Snow on "Using Library Websites for Genealogy." 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from E. Huron River Dr.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483-2799.

★"Leap Year Party": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited for a family-oriented program of games & crafts. Snacks. 2-3 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★"New Technologies and Victorian Society": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of early British photos from the museum's permanent collection. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

"7th Annual Chili Cook-Off": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Fundraiser. Tastings of 10 chilis and 3 beers. Raffle. 2-5 p.m., Wolverine State Brewing Company, 2019 W. Stadium. Tickets \$20; chili only: \$10 (kids, \$5). [A2ct.org](http://A2ct.org), 971-2228.

★Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild. All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. 2-4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-5763.

"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Whale": PTD Productions. See 25 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Chesapeake": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Seussical Jr.": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 3 p.m.

"Sondheim on Sondheim": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★Vic Amato: Nicola's Books. This Port Huron writer reads from *Incoming: Collected Stories*, his new collection of 16 tales that explore the human psyche with empathetic portraits of various people. All have a contemporary setting, save "Everyone Hates Malvolio," a sardonic takeoff on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Signing. 3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★"Great Adventures": Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program highlighted by selections from *Adventure Tale of Professor Alex*, Daisuke Shimizu's concert band work about the adventures of a fictitious archaeologist who discovers a map describing ancient treasures and a fountain of youth. Also, Franco Cesari's *Tom Sawyer Suite* and John Williams' *E.T. the Extraterrestrial Adventures on Earth*. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra, which is joined by Lincoln High School vocal ensembles for a program TBA. 3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$12 (seniors & kids under age 12, \$6; family of up to 2 adults & 2 kids under age 12, \$30) in advance at [ypsilantisymphony.org](http://ypsilantisymphony.org) and at the door. 507-1451.

Euterpe Woodwind Quintet: First United Methodist Church. This local ensemble of Washtenaw Community Concert Band members, founded by clarinetist Ernest Brandon, performs contemporary Canadian composer Vince Gassi's *Four Incarnations for Winds*, the 4th movement of 20th-century American composer Jeff Manookian's *Quintet for Winds*, 19th-century Spanish composer Blai Maria Colomer's *Bourree*, and contemporary American composer K.W. Gemmell's *The Flapper's Ball*. Also, transcriptions of Elgar's "Chanson de Matin," J.S. Bach's "In dir ist Freude," Vaughan Williams' *English Folk Song Suite*, Tchaikovsky's *Humoresque*, and Richard Brown's arrangement of "Shenandoah." With flutist Beth Wondolowski, oboist Juleen Ambrose, hornist Ashley Burtner, bassoonist Kathy Fredette. Reception follows. 7:30 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Freewill offering. 662-4536, ext. 0.

## 29 MONDAY

See 1 Monday for recurring Monday events.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UM PSYCHIATRY RESEARCH (HUM00041689)

Seeking Youth: Ages 8-18

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:

- ☑ Caucasian, English speaking youth ages 8-18
- ☑ With or without history of behavioral or emotional concerns
- ☑ No history of substance abuse or intellectual disability
- ☑ No recent suicidal behavior
- ☑ Currently living with at least one biological parent

WHAT IS INVOLVED:

- ☑ Interview, questionnaires, EEG (electroencephalogram), decision-making task appointment, saliva sample and optional blood draw

COMPENSATION:

- ☑ Up to \$200

For more information, contact Study Coordinator:

734-232-0507, [childanxiety@umich.edu](mailto:childanxiety@umich.edu)



# AAOS

## Ann Arbor Orthopaedic Specialists

Welcome  
James Moravek MD

Dr. Moravek specializes in treating all conditions of the shoulder - arthroscopy, fractures, revision surgery and reconstruction, including total and reverse shoulder replacements. Additionally, he has advanced training in the elbow, sports medicine, and arthroscopy.

Accepting New Patients  
734-712-0655

[aaosonline.com](http://aaosonline.com)

Ann Arbor - 5315 Elliott Dr. Suite 304  
Canton - 1600 S. Canton Center Rd.

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# Classifieds

## Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the March issue is February 10.

**Get happy piano/guitar lessons for your child!** Decades of training, experience, and performance. Two degrees in Music Education. For a free consult call (734) 646-2740.

**PIANO LESSONS**—Greater AA area, your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher, DMA U-M. Info (734) 482-4663.

### CALL TO ACTION

Progressive-minded Catholic Community working together for equality & justice. Local branch of national group. Meets last Sunday each month at Genesis, 2309 Packard, at 1:00. Next meeting: February 28. (734) 975-4632. All welcome! [www.cta-wc.org](http://www.cta-wc.org)

## Wanted

The Classifieds deadline for the March issue is February 10.

**Compassionate, mature woman with housekeeping experience** to maintain home while acting as companion and caretaker for mother. Full time, long term with relatively flexible hours. Must pass background check and have references. Call Sabine at (734) 276-3078.

**Apartment Maintenance Supervisor** Mountainview Properties, Inc. is seeking a full-time Maintenance Supervisor for Centerra Pointe, a brand new 192-unit Class "A" multifamily property in Ann Arbor, MI. Applicant must be able to perform all aspects of apartment maintenance including plumbing, electrical, locks, doors, screens, appliances, HVAC, make ready, and community grounds maintenance. Must be available for night/weekend call duty. Insured vehicle/valid driver's license is required. Mountainview Properties, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and Centerra Pointe is a smoke-free environment. Please email resumes to [manager@centerrapointe.com](mailto:manager@centerrapointe.com).

### GUIDES RESEARCHER

Conscientious, diligent, and resourceful person with excellent English skills needed for temporary work at the Ann Arbor Observer as a City Guide and Community Guide researcher. Must be available for most of the period from May through August. Part-time position (20 hours/week) with flexible schedule. The job requires tremendous attention to detail, ability to track down information, suitable people skills, good writing skills, and a penchant for accuracy and thoroughness. Please send resume and cover letter to James Manheim, Deputy Editor, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, email [jim@aaobserver.com](mailto:jim@aaobserver.com), or fax (734) 769-3375. No phone calls, please. Application deadline is March 1.

## Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the March issue is February 10.

### I SPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 83? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, February 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com) (put I Spy in the subject line).

### FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon February 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com) or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

## Services

The Classifieds deadline for the March issue is February 10.

### Woodworker/Restorer

[www.furnituredesignwoodwork.com](http://www.furnituredesignwoodwork.com)  
[steve@furnituredesignwoodwork.com](mailto:steve@furnituredesignwoodwork.com)  
(734) 265-0664—Leave Message

**Retired journalist, author, freelancer** will ghost write your memoir at negotiable rate. Call (734) 665-9670.

## Home

The Classifieds deadline for the March issue is February 10.

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Excellent references. (734) 644-4510

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Carpentry ★ Plumbing ★ Electrical  
Kitchens ★ Baths ★ Basements  
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[www.NoClogGutter.com](http://www.NoClogGutter.com)

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Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375  
Email: [classifieds@aaobserver.com](mailto:classifieds@aaobserver.com)

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia  
Publisher



All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **February 10** will be entered in a drawing for a **\$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

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# Real Estate

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**500 Highland Rd., Ann Arbor**—This storybook Cape Cod is notable as it was designed early in his career by Wells Bennett, Dean of UM School of Architecture. The unique fireplace mantel in the study features small carved likenesses of the 1930s faculty of the School of Architecture. Well balanced floor plan with first floor bedroom, full bath, formal living and dining rooms, kitchen with breakfast nook and inviting study with vaulted ceiling. South facing windows fill the room with light and offer views of sweeping front lawn. Upstairs are two bedrooms and a full bath as well as large attic storage area. Superb location, steps from the Arboretum and short walk to UM hospital and central campus. \$625,000. #3237036.

**For a complete list of features please visit: [www.carolynlepard.com](http://www.carolynlepard.com)**



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## MARKET UPDATE - February 2016

Wow! What a year in Real Estate. The 2015 selling season may go on the books as the strongest year ever for Ann Arbor real estate. Driven by demand to live in our wonderful community and outstanding neighborhoods, home values reached their highest level ever in many areas. 2016 will bring more of the same. Are you thinking of buying or selling in 2016? Call me today for a private consultation, 734-476-7100.

**SELLERS** - The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

**BUYERS** - Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.

**#1** Individual producing real estate agent in Michigan  
Individual producing real estate agent in Washtenaw County  
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In sales of \$1 Million homes in Ann Arbor - 2015

Over \$50 million sold & closed in 2015

Over 100 homes sold in 2015

Over \$800 million in career sales volume

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Matt Dejanovich has been a realtor serving the Ann Arbor area for 26 years and has been a resident of the community his entire life. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his clients.

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**ANN ARBOR** - Stunning 4-bedroom, 6 1/2-bath custom-built home. Just minutes from U-M hospitals, central campus, and all freeways. This home represents the finest design, materials, and craftsmanship you will see on the market today. The resort-like setting includes extensive landscaping, an in-ground pool, and an outdoor kitchen. The interior is highlighted by the two-story barrel ceiling great room, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished lower level. \$1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**BURNS PARK** - Incredible 6-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath Mission-style two-story perfectly preserved and nicely updated. This is one of the most stately homes you will ever find with a gorgeous lot and extensive landscaping. The interior oozes old charm, including incredible moldings and trim work throughout. Highlights include remodeled kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counter tops, large living room with fireplace, sunroom, and finished third floor suite. \$1,250,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**SALINE** - This stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath 2003 Showcase of Homes entry represents the finest combination of design, materials, and workmanship on the market today. Incredible setting includes manicured grounds, extensive landscaping, oversized patio, and a stream with two waterfalls. The interior is a showpiece. Features include hardwood floors throughout, upgraded trim and molding, great room with stacked stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$1,200,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**SALINE** - Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath, custom-built home on a gorgeous 3-acre+ setting overlooking the Saline River. You will not find a more striking home or setting on the market today. Park-like setting includes extensive landscaping, paver patio, and circle drive. The interior is a showpiece with design, craftsmanship, and materials. Highlights include oversized cherry kitchen with granite, great room with wall of glass, luxury first floor master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**ALL SPORTS LAKEFRONT ESTATE** - Incredible private estate features 20-acres of gorgeous woodlands and frontage on all-sports, private Putnam Lake in Pinckney. This is a rare opportunity to find a magnificent custom-built home on a secluded waterfront estate. 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch with stunning lake views from every room in the house. Features include large great room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite counter, first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. Additional guest cottage makes this a great family gathering place. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath, on a spacious acre lot in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has been completely renovated in the past 5 years. It's gorgeous! Great lot features extensive landscaping, large patio, and in-ground pool. The interior features custom cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, cherry floors, family room with fireplace, oversized sunroom, luxury master suite with remodeled bath and sitting room, and finished basement. \$779,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**CENTENNIAL PARK** - Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath, custom-built home in one of Saline schools most desired neighborhoods. Walk to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School from this most convenient location. This home is loaded with custom extras. Features include two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, sunroom, den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. \$609,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**MATHIEA FARMS** - Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Hobbs and Black designed, contemporary ranch on a private 1.5-acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. The setting features extensive landscaping, screened porch, and large deck. The interior has been completely renovated and features hardwood floors throughout, striking great room with wall of glass to the backyard, gourmet kitchen with granite, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**NEW LISTING - WINES ELEMENTARY** - Stately 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath Victorian reproduction style home loaded with all of the modern amenities you've hoped for. Home rests on a gorgeous, wooded acre lot just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor, freeways, and schools. The interior of this home shines. Features include ample hardwood floors, upgraded kitchen, screened porch, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$589,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**KING SCHOOL** - Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath contemporary home with your own private path to King Elementary. Wonderful setting with mature trees, two decks, and large grassy area. The interior of this home has had many updates. Highlights include living and dining rooms with high vaulted ceilings, walls of glass, Brazilian cherry floor, and full height fireplace, large kitchen with vaulted ceiling, large master suite with remodeled bath, large kids' rooms, flex use study could be 4th bedroom, and lower level family room. \$579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**NEW LISTING - CENTENNIAL FARMS** - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial, walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. This home rests on one of the best lots in the neighborhood. Enjoy the spacious backyard and vista views from the oversized deck. The interior highlights include almost all hardwood floors throughout the house, living room with vaulted ceiling, open concept kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large family room with fireplace, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. \$455,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**YORK PLACE** - Very nice 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot, featuring huge backyard and wonderful in-ground pool. Great setting in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include extensive hardwood flooring, open concept floor plan, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, large family room, great master suite, nice sized kids' bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. \$454,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**RIVERWOOD** - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods, walking distance to Wines Elementary. Great setting featuring large deck, extensive landscaping, and great backyard. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include open concept floor plan, large kitchen with hardwood floor, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, first floor den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. \$449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**HUNTERS RIDGE** - Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot backing to trees. This home has been perfectly cared for and nicely updated. Features include open concept floor plan, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, updated kitchen, first floor den, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with large rec space. The backyard features wonderful outdoor living area. \$434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**DIUBLE MEADOWS** - Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial on a spacious 1/4-acre lot in one of Saline schools most desired neighborhood. Great setting with large deck, extensive landscaping, and huge backyard. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include open concept living with spacious maple kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large family room with fireplace, great formal living and dining rooms, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet, and bath, and three large kids' bedrooms. \$389,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**PATTENGILL ELEMENTARY** - Charming 4-bedroom, 2-bath cape on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This is a great setting with mature trees, large backyard, and lots of privacy. The interior is move-in ready and features welcoming living room, large kitchen, family room/sunroom with fireplace, large flex-use bedrooms, and two full baths. \$319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR CONDO** - Very sharp 2-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath townhouse condo on Ann Arbor's south side. Enjoy this very convenient location just minutes to University of Michigan and all freeways. This unit rests on the best location in the complex. Enjoy great views of woods and nature from the best location in the complex. The interior features new carpet and paint throughout and a partially finished basement. \$134,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



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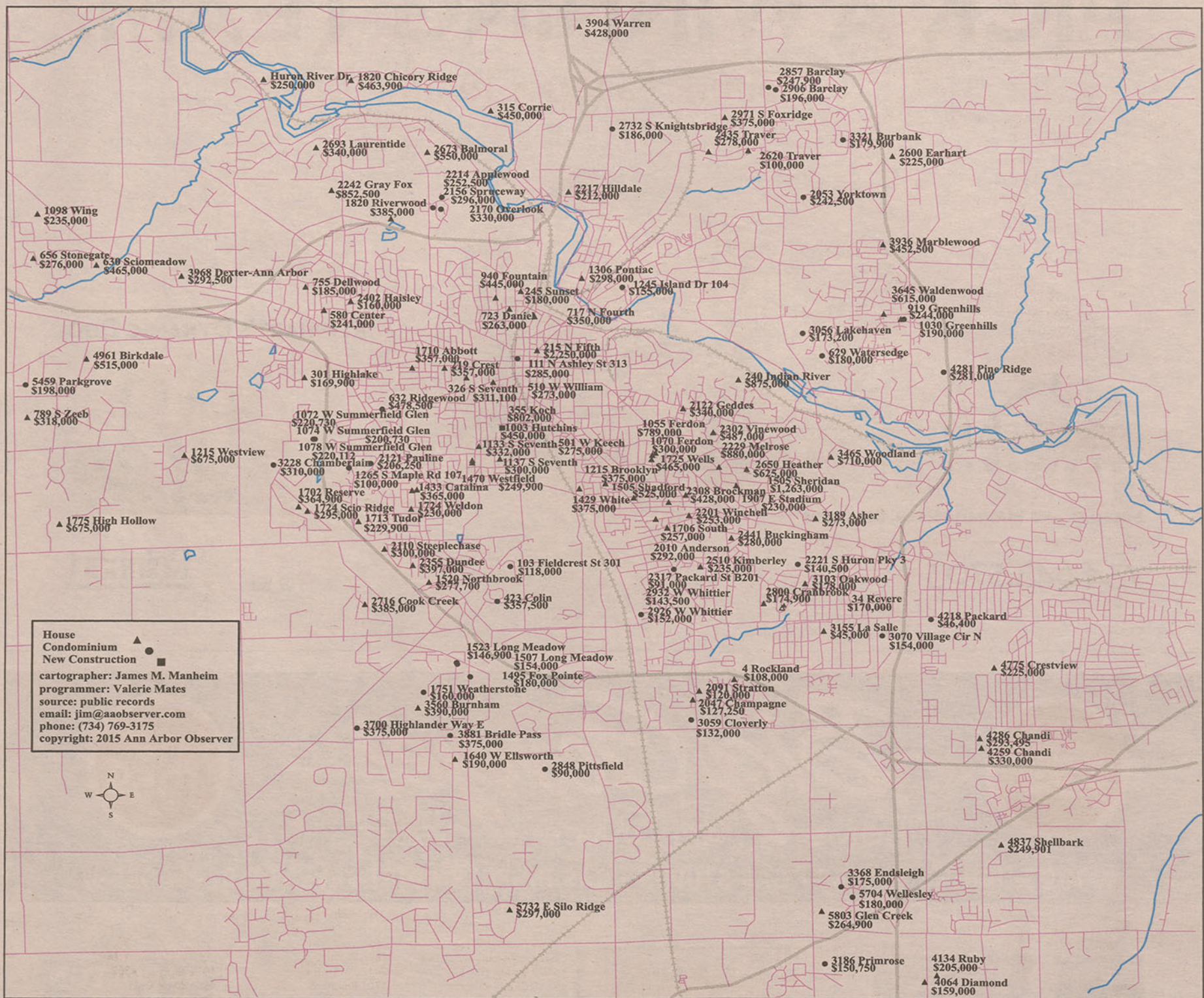
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# DECEMBER 2015

## HOME SALES



The value of homes sold in the Ann Arbor School District set another new record in 2015, topping last year's record-breaking total. The total value of the new and existing single-family homes and condos sold totaled nearly \$642 million, up more than 6 percent from 2014.

The 1,355 single-family home sales trailed last year's tally by just two units. The median sales price—half cost more, half cost less—edged up just a tad, from \$295,000 to \$298,000. You'll find a home that sold for the median on this month's

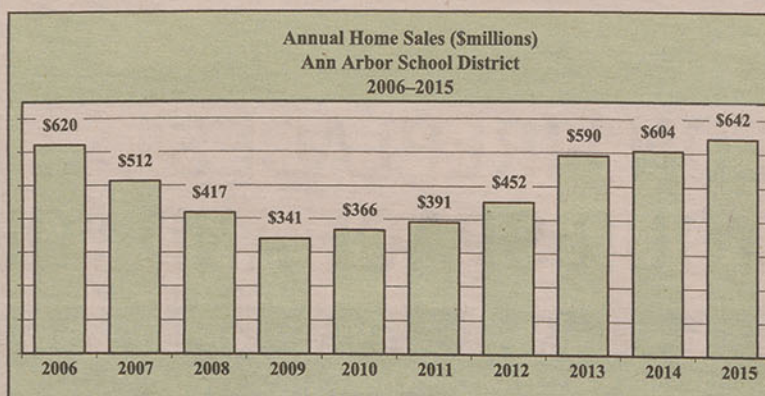
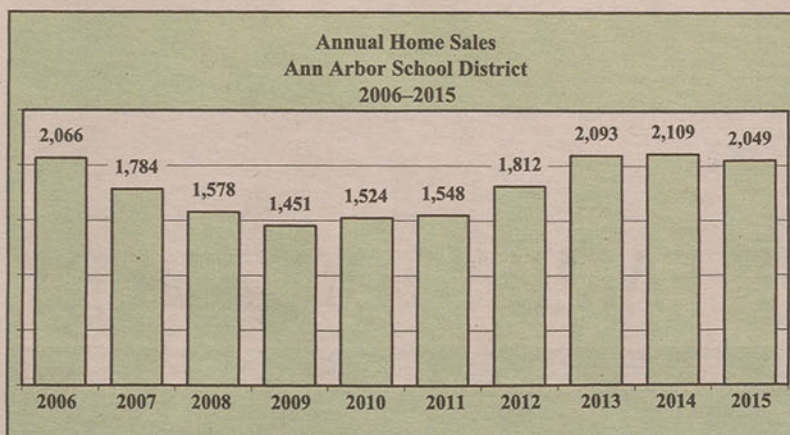
map—a modest postwar ranch on Anderson Ct., off Packard east of Stadium.

Condo sales and prices were both up in 2015. Sales rose from 658 to 670, as homes in the big projects built during the booming early 2000s turned over at a steady clip. Condos under \$200,000, tailor-made for the increasing numbers

of college graduates who are braving the snows and spending their twenties in and around Ann Arbor, remain plentiful: this month's map shows ten in various parts of town that sold for 2015's median price of \$180,000. That represents a 9 percent increase over last year's \$165,000 condo median.

There are still bargain condos to be found. The least-expensive home on our December map was a two-bedroom, 768-square-foot stacked ranch condo in Arbor Heights on Packard; it sold for \$46,400.

—James M. Manheim







Martin Bouma  
Realtor®

# Thank You!

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# CLOSED SALES 2015

2260 Miller	3034 Forest Creek	5737 Sunrise
3197 Asher	116 W Oakbrook	4993 Ridgeside Circle
2852 Barclay Way	7150 W Ellsworth	3629 Deerfield
3580 Bent Trail	2445 Woodview	7339 Warwick
3451 Bent Trail	1800 Northbrook	2777 Page
1571 Glastonbury	1630 Meadowside	5741 Hampshire
7768 Brass Creek	1613 Brooklyn	1422 Fox Pointe
315 Pauline	4741 Sawgrass	2087 Whispering Woods
11726 Quigley	10266 Buhl	3610 Golfside
2121 Stonebridge	7186 Hunters Ridge	7118 Hogan
5454 Witness Tree Lane	2678 Valley	3113 Earlmoore
702 Sunset	727 Fountain	1377 Fox Pointe Circle
3037 Barclay	4210 Boulder Pond	1583 Long Meadow
3039 Barclay	3043 Barclay	3250 Hillshire Ct
315 Pauline	1583 Oakfield	2635 Cook Creek
741 Marblewood Lane	556 Marblewood	216 S Revena
5490 Crane	2450 Adare	9070 Lebaron Ct
1078 Cantor Lane	917 Edgewood Place	420 W Main
3037 Barclay	6182 Gyers Meadow Lane	2433 Highland Drive
2744 Page	5939 Villa France	2105 Copley
2955 Tepeyac Hill	3737 Bradford Square Drive	4526 Oak Pointe Drive
3572 Whispering Oaks	295 Sandrock Ct	2959 Breckenridge
2651 Emerald	2912 Renfrew	3139 Asher
8144 Mester	3420 Brentwood Ct	3007 Forest Creek
5840 Bellwether	1050 Bicentennial Pkwy	1002 Greenhills
1851 Ridgewood Circle	2904 Brockman	4246 Brookstone
1575 Kensington	8715 Grove	4846 Gingko
644 Liberty Pointe	322 Doty	1729 Reserve Way
5408 Golden Oak	2292 Georgetown	3348 Stirling
315 Second #506	51262 Glen Hollow Ave	3253 Fieldstone
2955 Tepeyac Hill	10430 Elizabeth	2172 Osprey
6925 Kingsley	1561 W Liberty	3432 Beaumont
2639 English Oaks	2260 Steeplechase	219 Victorian Lane
1952 Snowberry Ridge	1229 Island #203	120 W Washington #C
406 Manor	1147 Freesia	5421 Golden Oak Lane
1304 Kay Pkwy	438 Cottonwood	283 S Zeeb #203
5440 Bradford Circle	331 Scio Village #170	228 Lafayette
2761 Barclay Way	4210 Boulder Pond	2930 N Knightsbridge
102 Village Place	41240 Maplewood	2075 Liberty Heights
229 Scio Village #102	5692 Versailles	44446 Newburyport Dr
3359 Bent Trail	8217 Cypress Way	4619 Inverness
627 Madison Place	504 E Main	4619 Inverness
1710 S State Street	403 Potter	5681 Earhart
4568 Cherry Blossom	11 Ridgeway	8420 Cedar Hills Drive
1449 N Silo Ridge	5417 New Meadow	2772 Lowell
3175 Rumsey	404 Wildwood	961 Marshall Ct
6822 Madden	10730 Coopersfield	3616 Burnham
10252 Normonie Ct	5932 Cedar Ridge	2726 Glenbridge
136 Ashley Mews	2912 Brandywine	2125 Nature Cove #308
1359 Heatherwood	19 Ridgeway	756 Watersedge
4392 Hillside	6433 Meadow Ridge	3200 Eastridge
2933 Whittier Ct	8770 Hidden Woods	11710 Centennial Dr
1706 Coburn	6191 Cherrywood	5934 Quebec
1860 Cypress Pt	3604 Bent Trail	1507 Brooklyn
572 Canterbury	1673 Weatherstone	2577 West Towne Drive
9072 Emerson	2479 Peters Rd	101 Fieldcrest #302
4568 Cherry Blossom	1707 Shadford	465 Village Oaks
7155 Hickory Creek	1336 Kensington Dr	505 E Huron #308
6310 Robison	4621 Old Oak	840 W Summerfield Glen
1449 N Silo Ridge	11799 Parkview Ct	755 Dellwood
1730 S Stonebridge	48583 Meadow Ct	1724 Scio Ridge
2820 S Knightsbridge	3836 Lake Pointe Lane	238 Lafayette
2754 S Knightsbridge	9643 Russell Ave	5459 Parkgrove
2933 E Whittier	2750 S Knightsbridge	4281 Pine Ridge Ct
1807 Independence	3155 Asher	103 Fieldcrest #103
115 Ponds View Drive	1217 Island Drive #202	313 Pembroke
3481 Burbank	3533 Meadow Grove	1520 Northbrook
6422 Thompson Pond	3458 Richard Street	1206 Bicentennial
111 N Ashley #408	1878 Cypress Pointe	5459 Parkgrove
6422 Thompson Pond	4884 Troon	1495 Fox Pointe Circle
1711 Morton Ave	4841 Northgate	13386 Lake Point Blvd
1924 Lorraine	2026 Winsted	118 W Oakbrook
4519 Knollcrest	2553 W Liberty	9377 Hidden Lake Circle
1881 Harley	9006 Carter	1924 Lorraine
2059 Delaware	2877 Textile	5848 St Martin Ct
4250 Climbing Way	4993 Ridgeside Circle	1705 Hermitage
7089 Warner	2750 Cumberland	1726 Hanover
1719 Chandler	4311 Pine Ridge	8412 Walnut Hill
3100 Hawks	1878 Cypress	2789 S Knightsbridge
2297 Medford	1709 Shadford	414 S Main #5
3588 Ryan Drive	50045 Standish	3034 Forest Creek
572 River Pointe	1616 Waltham	3495 Burbank
2749 Barclay	801 Cornell	431 Colin Circle
2744 Barclay	7184 Hickory Creek	2672 Packard
2672 Packard	2801 Aspen Ridge	3505 Edgewood
3130 Asher	12176 McCollum	3078 Bolgos Circle
3078 Bolgos	4553 Lake Vista	3130 Asher



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# Back Page

## i spy

by Sally Bjork

"Cheers," writes Vinal Desai Burbeck. January's I Spy is "the new Ann Arbor Distilling Company!" "The 'new spirit in town' is ... next to the Ann Arbor Railroad] viaduct," offers Ginny Weingate. "It has wonderful gin and vodka ... [and] staff!" Judi Taylor adds its address, 220 Felch St.—"... where 'Metal' was located," notes Joel Henry Fisher, builder of the Felch St. lemonade stand featured in July 2011's I Spy.

"I love this little building," says Jordan Adema. Originally a Standard Oil depot, it's had myriad uses since. Cathy Strachan and Eric Sobocinski remember it as a bike store, while Dave Bicknell recalls the time he "helped paint a friend's studio there," when the Ann Arbor Art Cen-



**Residence near Residence**

ter used it for studios and classes. "I believe the street was named for the former Michigan Governor," adds Bicknell, referring to Alpheus Felch, who was responsible for platting the street that bears his name.

We received forty-two entries in January, all correct. Our random drawing winner, Brandi Gih, will enjoy her \$25 gift certificate at Car-damom restaurant.

*To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.*



## fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received a dozen incorrect submissions this month, all of which named the same ad. We won't identify it here, but we will say that truth truly is stranger than fiction.

The real Fake Ad, on p. 75 of the January issue, was for Golden Retirement. The ad referred to John F. Kennedy's famous 1963 speech in Berlin. Many people enjoy believing that he called himself a jelly doughnut, in German, when he meant to say he was a citizen of Berlin. (The killjoys at snopes.com say otherwise.)

"Reading the words of John Kennedy brought back many memories as I was in Frankfurt, Germany with the United States Army Security

Agency when Kennedy came through," wrote Chelsea's Gerald R. Smith. "I did not see the speech as I was on duty but did witness the car ride to the airport later as he stood and waved to the throngs on the sidewalks ... Kennedy thrilled the Germans and his speech affected the course of the German government and the course of the United States' relationship with Germany."

Our winner, chosen from 123 correct entries, was Martha Jennings, who also hails from Chelsea. Martha, we've been trying to reach you to find out where you'd like to take your gift!

*To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.*

If you remember  
"Ich bin ein Berliner":  
You have

**Experience**

If you know some people  
thought it meant  
"I am a jelly-filled donut":  
You have

**Intelligence**

If you know it really means  
"I am a citizen of Berlin":  
You have

**Wisdom**

And you should talk to us.

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To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com). Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Wednesday, February 10, will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

# THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

**Congratulations** to the lucky winners of our January drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

**January winners:**  
**Sue S. & Vita C.**

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## Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 49. Films: p. 53. Galleries: p. 65. Nightspots begin on p. 46.

### Concert Music

*classical, religious, cabaret*

- Latitude 49 (chamber), Feb. 5
- Project Trio (chamber), Feb. 7
- "Wine, Women, and Song XIV," Feb. 5 & 6
- Taylor Mac (cabaret), Feb. 5 & 6
- "Listening to the Agave," Feb. 6
- Pianist Igor Levit, Feb. 6
- Chatham Baroque, Feb. 13
- Organist Jeremy David Tarrant, Feb. 14
- UMS Choral Union, Feb. 14
- Pianist András Schiff, Feb. 16
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Feb. 21
- Dexter Community Band, Feb. 28
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 28
- Euterpe Woodwind Quintet, Feb. 28

### Vernacular Music

*pop, rock, jazz, & traditional*

See *Nightspots*, p. 46, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs

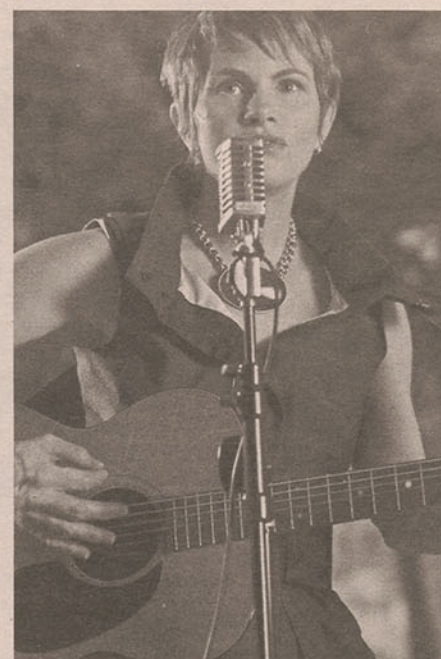
- Singer-songwriters Billy Brandt & Billy King, Feb. 3
- Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, Feb. 6
- Samn Johnson (electronic chamber), Feb. 12
- "Mr. B's Annual Birthday Bounce" (blues & boogie-woogie), Feb. 13
- Straight Ahead (jazz), Feb. 20
- Jazzistry "Annual Rent Party," Feb. 26
- Saxophonist George Benson & pianist Glenn Tucker, Feb. 26

### Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *The Odd Couple* (Purple Rose), every Wed.–Sun.
- *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Encore), every Thurs.–Sun., Feb. 4–21
- *Closer* (U-M Basement Arts), Feb. 4–6
- *Momentum* (U-M Dance Company), Feb. 4–7
- *The Electric Baby* (Kickshaw), Feb. 4–7, 10–14, & 18–21
- *Guys and Dolls* (Huron High), Feb. 5–7
- *My Fair Lady* (Burns Park Players), Feb. 5 & 6
- *Prospect High: Brooklyn* (Pioneer High), Feb. 5 & 6
- *Chesapeake* (Theatre Nova), every Thurs.–Sun., Feb. 5–28
- *The Piano Lesson* (EMU Theater), Feb. 10–14
- *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Penny Seats), every Thurs., Feb. 11–Mar. 3
- *Black Girl: Linguistic Play* (Camille A. Brown & Dancers), Feb. 13
- *Clybourne Park* (U-M Theatre), Feb. 18–21
- *Fortinbras* (U-M Musical Theatre), Feb. 18–21
- *Love and Information* (U-M Residential College), Feb. 21
- *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (National Theatre broadcast), Feb. 24
- *The Barber of Seville* (Comic Opera Guild), Feb. 25–27
- *The Whale* (PTD Productions), Feb. 25–28

### Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Mike Green, Feb. 4–6



Singer-songwriter Shawn Colvin performs at the Ark February 16.

- Civic Improv Ensemble, Feb. 5 & 6
- Comic Tina Giorgi, Feb. 11–13
- Comic Dwayne Kennedy, Feb. 18–20
- Comic Derick Lengwenus, Feb. 25–27
- Comic Ron White, Feb. 27

### Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea Winter Carnival, Feb. 5–7
- "Big Rack Night," Feb. 6
- 46th Annual Train Show, Feb. 13 & 14
- "Dawn Dance Weekend," Feb. 19–21
- "Brick Bash," Feb. 27
- "Annual Storytelling Festival," Feb. 27 & 28

### Films

Film listings are on p. 53.

- *Nanook of the North* with live score, Feb. 2
- *The Triplets of Belleville* with live score, Feb. 19

### Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Novelist Elizabeth McKenzie, Feb. 2
- Poet Clayton Eshleman, Feb. 2
- Novelist Garth Greenwell, Feb. 8
- Novelist Travis Mulhauser, Feb. 9
- Novelist Ruta Sepetys, Feb. 10
- Novelist NoViolet Bulawayo, Feb. 11
- Novelist David Joy, Feb. 11
- Poets Z.G. Tomaszewski & Dennis Hinrichsen, Feb. 12
- Novelist Mo Daviau, Feb. 15
- Novelist Angela Flournoy, Feb. 18
- Novelist Cristina Henríquez, Feb. 23
- Poets Joy Gaines-Friedler & Scott Beal, Feb. 24
- Novelist Shadreck Chikoti, Feb. 25
- Fiction writer Vic Amato, Feb. 28

### Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Drum Me a Story* (Wild Swan), Feb. 10–13
- *Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School* (Theatreworks USA), Feb. 13
- *Seussical Jr.* (Encore), Feb. 26–28

### "Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "Bill Ayers vs. Dinesh D'Souza: The Ultimate Fight Between Left and Right," Feb. 3



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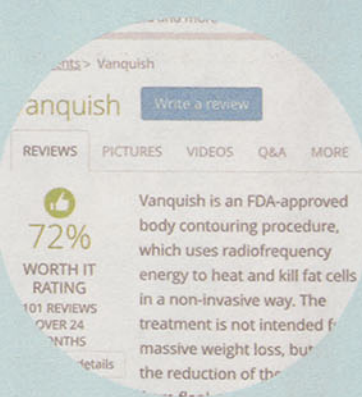
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